

Yeltsin warned 'not to go too far' KGB hierarchy faces trial in Gorbachev purge

By MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Soviet government was formally dismissed and the KGB's ruling body disbanded yesterday as President Gorbachev moved to reassert his authority after a week of prevarication.

The embattled president also announced a top-level investigation into the security service, four of whose leaders are among 13 men to have been charged with treason in the wake of last week's coup, and warned Boris Yeltsin not to go too far in assuming power.

To emphasise his determination to restore the supremacy of central Soviet institutions, Mr Gorbachev approved a series of interim appointments that will give all the republics a say in running the economy. The Russian prime minister, Ivan Silayev, is heading a committee to administer the economy, but he has now brought in representatives of 11 other republics, while the secessionist Baltic states will act as observers.

Grigori Yavlinsky, the radical pro-market economist who was the co-author of the "grand bargain" devised with

SOVIET UNION IN TRANSITION

INSIDE RUSSIA
Gorbachev attempts to salvage his reputation and the KGB, so long a feared tool of Soviet leaders, tries at last to reform itself... Page 10

USSR'S BORDERS
Russia talks to the Ukraine on border adjustments amid fears that Yeltsin is changing the map... Page 11

American economists two months ago, has been put in charge of working out an overall economic strategy.

Mr Gorbachev also named Boris Pankin, a former ambassador to Czechoslovakia, as his new foreign minister. The appointment came as Soviet foreign ministry officials and diplomats urged Eduard Shevardnadze to return to his old post. Mr Shevardnadze has said that he would not return, but he is to meet Mr Gorbachev today, and he told Cable News Network last night: "If this offer is made by the president, I will need to consider everything very, very carefully." The appeals to Mr Shevardnadze, who resigned last December warning of impending dictatorship, came in letters signed by 3,500 diplomats and 8,000 ministry officials and their families.

The KGB Collegium is the third pillar of the old Soviet power structure to be demolished in the coup aftermath, after the demise of the communist party and a purge of the armed forces high command. Besides dismissing senior officials and ordering the transfer of hundreds of thousands of KGB troops to the defence ministry, Mr Gorbachev ordered a committee to investigate the service's role in the coup and to produce a restructuring plan and legislation to regulate the agency's future activities. The com-

mission, which must report by October 26, will be led by Sergei Stepashin, the chairman of the Russian parliamentary committee on security.

In parliament, deputies passed a vote of no confidence first in the prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, who was one of the eight coup plotters, and then in the entire government. The votes, tantamount to formal dismissal, came after Mr Gorbachev declared: "I cannot trust this cabinet. That is that."

In spite of his firm stand, Mr Gorbachev continues to be politically isolated and vulnerable, and even his warning to Mr Yeltsin not to exceed his powers seemed little more than whistling in the dark. Under decrees issued over the past week, Russia has taken control of all government and special communications, the central bank, KGB and party archives on Russian territory, and — as of yesterday — holds a veto over all foreign exchange operations and transactions involving precious metals in Russia. In nominally federal bodies such as the interim economic committee, Russia's dominance is overwhelming.

Yesterday, Mr Gorbachev stood by his indulgent attitude to Russian decrees passed during the coup, but cautioned: "Now that the coup is behind us, I must say that it is unacceptable for all of us, including the Supreme Soviet of Russia and the president of Russia, for documents to make it appear that someone is seeking to involve the leadership of Russia. Everything must be based on the constitution and on co-operation."

Mr Gorbachev's warning came as he sought to capitalise on the Russian leader's first serious mistake since the coup. Continued on page 22, col 6

Medical Briefing, page 13
Diary, page 16
Leading articles and letters, page 17

Soviet ambassador recalled to Moscow

THE Soviet ambassador to Britain, Leonid Zamyatin, is to return to Moscow for "consultation" at the request of the Soviet foreign ministry.

Mr Zamyatin was seen as a hardliner and showed his willingness to back the junta during the coup. Although he was swift to issue a statement welcoming the coup's failure, there is speculation that he is being withdrawn permanently.

Last night the Soviet embassy indicated that Mr Zamyatin would leave today or tomorrow and said that the recall was "nothing dramatic". A spokesman said that it could be connected with John Major's visit to Moscow on Sunday to meet President Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president.

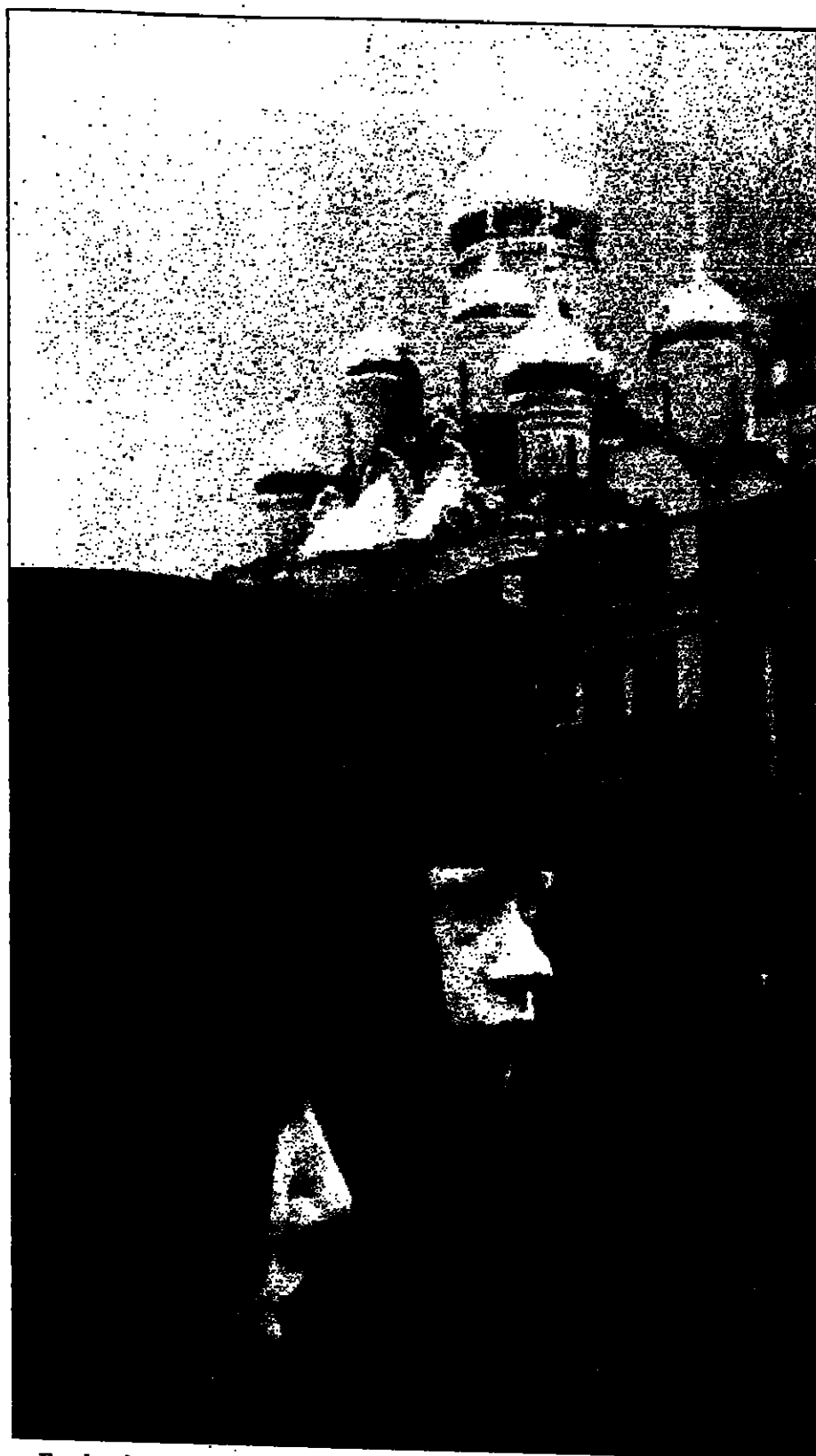
Asked if the ambassador was being replaced, the spokesman said: "These are just rumours. I can only



Zamyatin: described the coup as constitutional

confirm that he is flying at the invitation of the foreign ministry and he will come back after a few days."

Mr Zamyatin's initial reaction to the coup was that it was "in complete accordance" with the constitution and Soviet law.



Freedom in action: Orthodox nuns, celebrating newly-announced religious tolerance, walk in the grounds of the Kremlin after a congress for expatriate Russians

Major will do business with any emerging leaders

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

JOHN Major promised yesterday that, as "a politician, not a fortune-teller", he would do business with whoever emerged as capable of speaking for the Soviet people. However, he insisted that there should be no large-scale Western financial aid to the Soviet Union until it cut its "unsustainable and unacceptable" arms budget from its present 25 per cent of public spending.

Justifying the planned defence cuts by Britain and other Nato powers, the prime minister said before meeting the US defence secretary, Dick Cheney, that there was no need to reconsider the cuts, criticised by Margaret Thatcher and some Tory MPs.

In an NBC television interview in Washington, Mr Major said: "I don't see the logic in that argument. The reason for the defence cuts was strategic. The Warsaw Pact had collapsed. It's not going to be reinvented. Soviet troops were leaving East Germany, Poland and Hungary. They are still going. They are not going to come back. The concern about defence cuts, where it existed, was that there were still some hardliners in the Soviet Union. Events of the last week have removed them."

Seeking to reassure the critics, Mr Major said that the Nato cuts were staged and would be implemented only so long as the Soviet Union

met its promises to remove troops and reduce armaments. Several times in a series of breakfast-time television interviews, Mr Major said the Soviet Union was still devoting 25 per cent of government spending to defence. "It is not credible for them to continue to do that and to invite large-scale financial assistance from the West," he said.

In what Americans saw as a competent and articulate, but somewhat programmed and "buttoned up", performance, Mr Major refused invitations to criticise President Bush for going slower than France and Germany wished on speeding

up large-scale financial aid. He said that financial aid, apart from food and food credits, was "some way ahead". There first had to be a credible economic reform programme in place in the Soviet Union. Mr Major, who flies to Moscow on Sunday for separate meetings with President Gorbachev and President Yeltsin, told ABC: "I'm a politician, not a fortune teller. I'll do business with whomever is there and is in a position to do business on behalf of the Soviet Union. It might well be both of them."

Diary, page 16

Fierce fighting breaks out again in Croatia

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIERCE fighting resumed in Croatia yesterday, when federal army troops backed by planes, tanks and heavy artillery clashed with Croatian forces near the besieged town of Vukovar.

The clashes had subsided in the morning after Tuesday's talks between Croatia's leaders and federal military chiefs on the island of Brioni, during which they agreed on the need to try to implement a lasting ceasefire. Vukovar's streets were almost deserted yesterday, after people had fled or hidden in cellars and shelters. Several homes and shops received direct hits and scores more were damaged.

A Croatian television cameraman, Zarko Kajic, was killed during yesterday's clashes. Artillery duels were also reported between Serbs in Borovo Selo and Croatia in Borovo Naselje, neighbouring villages north of Vukovar.

Trace broken, page 12

Party is over for a discreet hotel

Once a haven for Communist leaders, a hotel tries to adapt to the post-party state. Bruce Clark reports

When bustling new Austrian managers arrived eight months ago at an attractive little hotel on a side-street near the Kremlin, they were puzzled by the porters' penchant for switching out lights that might be visible on the street. "People might realise it is a hotel," the staff insisted, as though that explained everything.

The reason for such modesty was that until very recently, this particular inn did not open its doors to just any weary traveller who was willing to pay; it was a little treat for senior members of the Communist party and provincial party bosses on jaunts to the capital, with or without their wives.

Inside they would be greeted by fawning, attentive staff, gleaming parquet floors and a degree of comfort and cleanliness (no cockroaches) that few hotels in the provincial outposts could ever match.

The days when the party could allow itself the luxury of placing such valuable assets purely at its own members' disposal seem a long way off.

The hotel had already been operating on a semi-commercial basis for some time when the Communist party's business managers decided last year to respond to the pressures of the market and turn the building into a milk-cow. Doubtless the chagrin of many a party back's wife from Stavropol or Omsk, the communists turned the hotel into a joint venture with ABV, an Austrian construction firm, which handed over its management to Marco Polo — a Vienna-based concern that also operates luxury hotels in Georgia and Leningrad.

In its capitalist guise, the hotel charges sums infinitely beyond the means of most communist apparatchiks: from \$180 (£107) Continued on page 22, col 5

Toy ban on abuse case children

By KERRY GILL

A DECISION by social workers to deprive nine Orkney children, seized during dawn raids on their homes amid allegations of ritual sex abuse, of toys and spare clothes was taken on the advice of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The judicial inquiry into the affair was told yesterday that toys could have hampered the children's ability to answer questions from society officials and the police.

Paul Lee, Orkney's director of social services, who later said that some social workers had expressed strong misgivings about the raids, told the inquiry in Kirkwall: "The reasoning behind that was that many objects, everyday objects or toys, might have an influence on whether the children felt free to describe their experiences."

Mr Lee said that two senior social workers employed by Stathlyde regional council, had told him that they felt they did not have enough information about the disclosures made by three other children, aged seven, eight and nine, to the police and an official of the children's society.

Sandy Fraser and Rab Murphy voiced their concern on the day before the nine children were taken from their homes on the island of South Ronaldsay. Mr Lee said that they were concerned about the time chosen for the four teams of social workers and police to take the children. They also feared that their expertise in the field of child abuse might not be used.

Mr Lee said that they were eventually persuaded of the need for the seizures. "I put it quite clearly to them that either they support us, or we would have to make arrangements for further assistance."

Mr Lee went on to criticise the heavy media presence that had made the job of his department "increasingly difficult". He also spoke of pressures on him, his family and his staff. He said that death threats were received, there were anonymous telephone calls, abusive letters, a For Sale notice placed in his garden. One of his daughters was intimidated by other children at school.

No toys allowed, page 3

TODAY IN THE TIMES

FIT TO EAT

An apple a day? Food that is good for us (as opposed to food that isn't) is the coming thing. But calcium-enriched gum? Page 13

ART AS POP

Sir John Gielgud rips an image from art history in the new Peter Greenaway. Terminator 2 for the art house circuit? Page 15

BOTTOM LINES

Mike Tyson's alleged bottom-pinching: is it worth £30 million a buttock? In the sceptical corner, Bernard Levin Page 16

CHAIRMAN'S MOVE

Lord Kintnersley, new chairman of Brent Walker, called in the Serious Fraud Office to the leisure group which owns William Hill bookmakers and Brighton Marina Pages 23, 25

INSIDE

Arts... 15-20
Births, marriages, deaths... 18, 19
Business... 23-28
Classified... 19, 30-36
Court & social... 18
Crosswords... 19, 22
Health... 13
Leading articles... 17
Letters... 17, 36
Obituaries... 26-40
Sport... 36-40
TV & radio... 21
University results... 29
Weather... 22

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Jaffa cake snatched from jaws of VAT man

By ROBIN YOUNG

DONALD Potter, QC, chairman of a VAT tribunal, is not convinced that a Jaffa cake is really a cake, but he is convinced it is not a biscuit. On that basis he yesterday saved the nation's Jaffa cake consumers £3.5 million a year.

This substantial crumb of comfort to those who eat more than half a billion chocolate-coated sponge cakelets a year comes in the form of 17.5 per cent VAT that will not have to be paid. Mr Potter's ruling means that Jaffa cakes will continue to sell at 60p for a packet of 12 rather than the 70p threatened by the imposition of VAT.

In a test case McVitie's, the largest manufacturers of Jaffa cakes, triumphed against a January Customs and Excise ruling which denounced Jaffa cakes as chocolate-covered biscuits or confectionery, and so liable to VAT. It is an

anomaly of British tax law that neither cakes nor plain biscuits are liable to VAT, but chocolate-covered biscuits are because they count as confectionery. A Mars bar is of course confectionery, unless it is a Mars bar ice cream, in which case it is VAT-free. Biscuits carry VAT even if the chocolate covering them is chocolate substitute. Cakes carry no VAT even if the chocolate is real and daubed on an inch thick.

The VAT men claimed that Jaffa cakes looked like biscuits, were packaged like biscuits, and were sold in shops from the biscuit shelves. McVitie's naturally insisted that Jaffa cakes really were cakes: "It looks like cake, tastes like cake, and sells like hot cakes," claimed a spokesman for McVitie's parent company which, inconveniently perhaps, is called United Biscuits.

Had Customs and Excise won its way,

the decision would not only have threatened the sales of 42 million packets of Jaffa cakes in Britain every year. It is also questioning the tax status of florentines, which are made of fruits and nuts on a chocolate base, and of German Lebkuchen gingerbreads.

Jaffa cakes take their name from the orange filling atop the sponge and beneath the chocolate covering, which was originally made with Jaffa oranges, themselves so called because they were shipped from the port of Haifa.

After legal argument from both sides, Mr Potter decided on balance yesterday that Jaffa cakes had many cake qualities, and were just cakey enough to get the benefit of a doubt they have enjoyed since the inception of VAT in the early 1970s. He ruled further that a Jaffa cake is definitely not a biscuit, on the logical ground that it is not cooked twice.



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TT 29/8

Cook reopens attack on Tories over hospital spending

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR sought to restore health to the top of the political agenda yesterday by highlighting the alleged shortcomings of 12 years of Tory rule.

Robin Cook, the Opposition's chief health spokesman, pointed to bed closures, soaring waiting lists, wasted spending on increased bureaucracy, and a poor record on overall investment and medical staffing. The credibility of Mr Cook's onslaught was undermined by his failure to spell out how much a future Labour government would spend on the NHS.

The Opposition spokesman, who is under intense pressure from his Treasury colleagues in the shadow cabinet to avoid giving hostages to fortune by announcing spending pledges, stuck to the official line by saying that he would be "seeking over the lifetime of the next Labour government to restore to the NHS the underfunding of the past ten years".

His words were only marginally firmer than the Opposition's last policy document, *Looking to the Future*,

which says that to redress fully the neglect of the past decade may well take at least a whole Parliament. Mr Cook was unable to put a figure on the extent of the alleged underfunding in spite of coupling his remarks with the publication of a lengthy document described as an audit of the health service from 1979-91.

He said: "I cannot answer that question until we get in and see the books. If William Waldegrave lets me into the Department of Health for a day, I would be delighted to emerge and announce the extent of the underfunding."

The British Medical Association said yesterday that it calculated that the government would have to spend an extra £6 billion on the NHS to bring Britain's spending as a proportion of national income in line with other comparable countries.

Stephen Dorrell, a junior health minister, seized on the lack of a figure to argue that Labour's promises of additional money for the health service were nothing but a blank cheque. He said that its

spokesmen had consistently refused to say what they would do for the NHS.

Mr Cook announced an autumn campaign on health aimed at 100 marginal Tory seats in cities such as Bristol, Plymouth, Southampton and Nottingham. He would be highlighting the Tory record and next week Labour candidates in the marginal seats would come to Westminster for an all-day briefing on the health service.

Labour's opinion poll lead over the Tories was at its biggest after the Mounmouth by-election early in the summer, when Labour had criticised the possible opting out of a constituency hospital. The gap has narrowed as upheaval in the Soviet Union has dominated the headlines.

Mr Cook said yesterday that private polling showed that the state of the NHS was one of voters' biggest worries.

Mr Dorrell said four independent surveys had concluded that NHS trust hospitals were delivering improved quality of care to a larger number of patients.

Scrutiny for new teachers

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

NEW teachers will be watched to see how well they have been trained to handle the stresses of classroom work, Tim Eggar, education minister, said yesterday. The six-month investigation will begin at the end of the year as part of plans to reform teacher training.

Researchers will also be asked to investigate the quality of on-the-job training given to new teachers and will be used to identify weaknesses. "Induction courses for new teachers has long been the weakest area of teacher training," Mr Eggar said.

"Systematically collected evidence about newly qualified teachers and their performance in their first year could clearly be of great help," he added. Evidence from newly qualified teachers could also be used to ensure that induction training provided a relevant and helpful bridge from college to the classroom.

● Schools still have serious teacher shortages as they prepare for the new term, the Labour party said yesterday. A survey of 30 local education authorities showed that modern languages were the biggest problem with 87 per cent of authorities struggling to recruit and retain teachers.



Ding-dong: Baroness Cox, who is campaigning to save the women ringers' association from expulsion from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, in action at St Mary's, at Monken Hadley, in north London

Women fight for their ringing role

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Cox, a deputy speaker in the House of Lords, is one of dozens of women bell ringers meeting in bellfries around Britain to discuss how to fight a proposal to eject their specialist society from campanology's top table. The women ringers are enraged by a plan to exclude the Ladies' Guild from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Lady Cox, who has been ringing for 40 years and describes herself as an "addict", met fellow members of the guild at a practice session at St Mary's, at Monken Hadley, in north London, to discuss what action to take. The women plan to lobby the central council before it discusses the proposal in October.

After ringing the Stedman Triples method, Lady Cox said: "In many towers, women ringers make up a significant proportion. This proposal is a great pity. The guild will still flourish, whether it is on the council or not, but there is a principle of accountability and respect at stake. At St Mary's, we all agreed that we were strongly in favour of the Ladies' Guild and other guilds being maintained. I am a great

believer in maintaining these grass-roots organisations."

One in ten of the country's 25,000 ringers is a woman, and about 300 belong to the Ladies' Guild, founded in 1912, when women were banned from some bellfries. At the turn of the century, most ringing societies, which began as sports clubs for men, refused to let women join.

Women ringers came into their own in the first world war and have rarely looked back. The dispute over the council plans takes place in a climate in which the Ancient Society of College Youths (ASCY), the oldest and most famous ringing society, providing ringers for Westminster Abbey, is being criticised for excluding women.

The proposals would also result in expulsion from the council of the police and railway guilds and the universities association, but the Ladies' Guild is particularly angered that the provisions make a special case for the men-only ASCY to stay on it.

Cyril Wratten, the council secretary, said: "This is part of a larger review... Nobody is getting at women as such."

Sanctuary criticism rejected by Church

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Roman Catholic church in Ireland yesterday tried to stem criticism of its handling of the Newry cathedral sanctuary affair.

Cardinal Cahal Daly, Primate of All Ireland, defended the actions of cathedral staff during the 11 days that Liam Kearns and David Madigan sought the sanctuary of the cathedral sacristy, in defiance of an IRA death threat.

"I'm very sorry indeed that this state of claim and counter-claim has detracted from the debt of gratitude that these young men owe to the priests," Dr Daly said.

The men, who left the cathedral on Tuesday night, electing instead to go into hiding within their own community, accused priests of having exerted "unbelievable" pressure on them to leave.

The men's mothers said: "We have been disappointed and disheartened by the attitude of some local clergy such as Father Green and Father Cullen. They have urged us to meet the IRA's demands and cast doubt on the motives of those helping us."

Mr Kearns and Mr Madigan were ordered by the IRA two weeks ago to get out of Ireland, or face unspecified "military action" for alleged criminal behaviour. They have always claimed their innocence.

□ The County Armagh town of Market Hill was devastated by an IRA van bomb yesterday. The 100lb bomb destroyed the police station and damaged up to 200 homes and shops on the town's market day. A soldier was slightly injured in the foot and a woman was taken to hospital suffering shock.

Charter team is appointed

The head of one of the leading right-wing think tanks was yesterday named by the prime minister among a team of independent experts to advise him on the implementation of the citizen's charter.

Madsen Pirie, president of the Adam Smith Institute throughout the Thatcher era, joins a seven-strong advisory panel chaired by Sir James Blyth, chairman and chief executive of Boots. The charter aims to strengthen the hand of those who use state services.

The other members are Christopher Brand, chairman of LWT, Nancy Lane, a Cambridge university biologist, Christopher Swan, a senior executive at British Airways, Stan Webster, head of operations at Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte consultancy, and Lady Wilcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council.

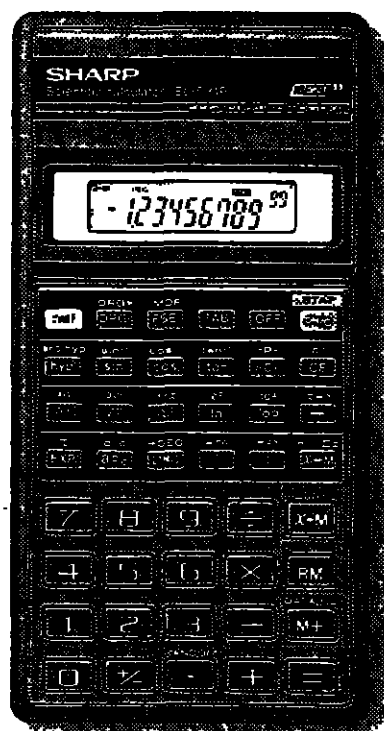
Payment made

The Home Office has made a second interim compensation payment to the six men freed by the Court of Appeal this year after 16 years in prison for the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974. They received a first payment that was believed to be about £50,000 each soon after the court quashed their convictions for murder. The second payment is understood to be substantially more.

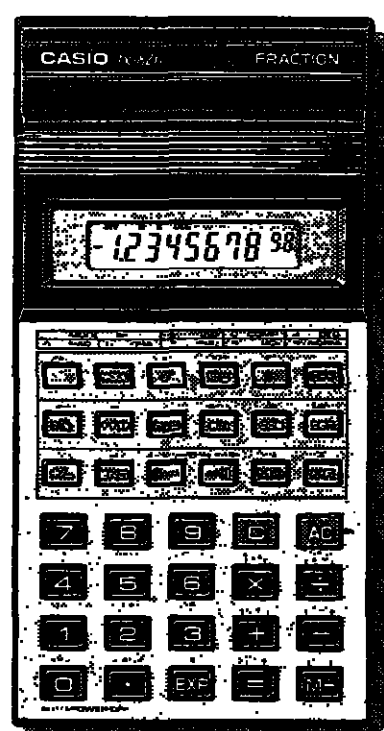
Halford move

Alison Halford, Britain's highest ranking woman police officer, yesterday resumed her efforts to gain access to documents which she says will support her claim of sex discrimination on the part of Merseyside police. Ms Halford, an assistant chief constable, is seeking the dismissal of a police appeal against a ruling that Merseyside police should disclose information relating to the case.

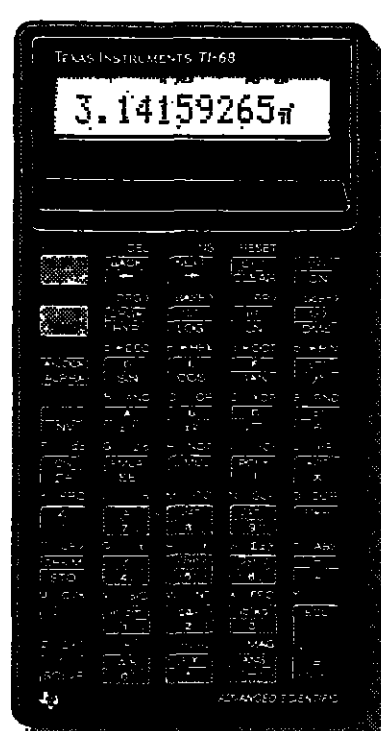
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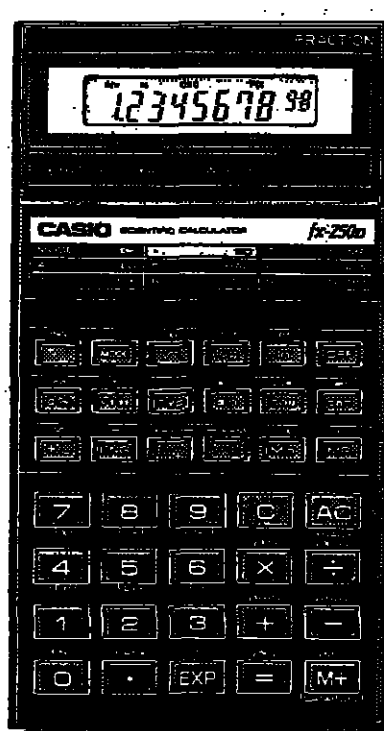
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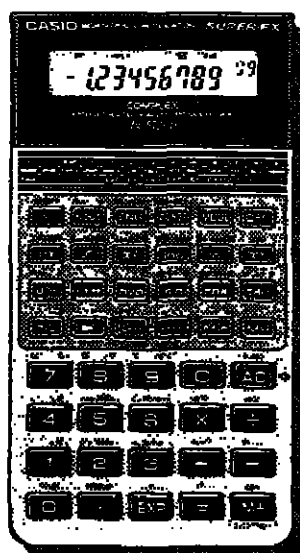
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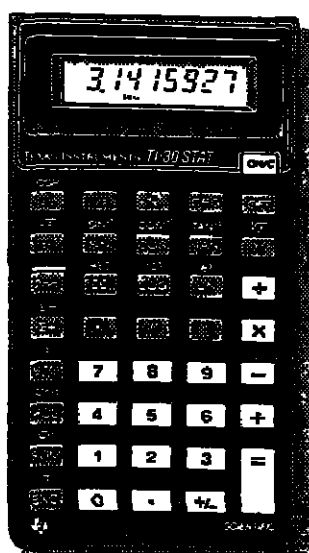
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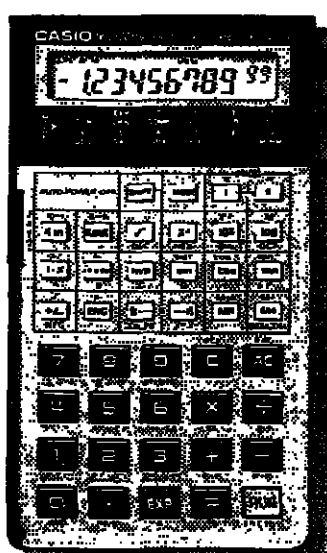
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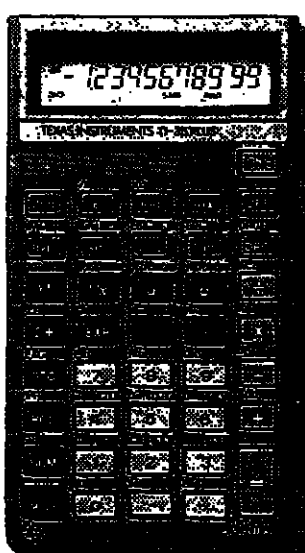
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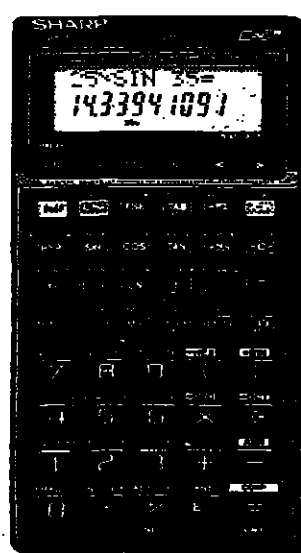
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Orkney sex abuse enquiry

Seized children not allowed to take toys or spare clothes

By KERRY GILL

THE nine Orkney children seized from their homes after allegations of ritual sexual abuse in February were not allowed to take toys or any clothes other than those they were wearing. The decision was taken on the advice of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the judicial enquiry at Kirkwall was told yesterday.

It also emerged that senior social workers from Strathclyde expressed concern about the dawn seizures and the lack of information about the allegations made by three young children that led to the children being taken into care. The view was taken that toys might have hampered the children's ability to answer questions from RSPCC officials and the police, Paul Lee, Orkney's director of social work, said. "The reasoning behind that was that many objects, everyday objects or toys, might have an influence on whether the children felt free to describe their experiences."

In the event, some of the children took toys after some social workers related. Mr Lee said he did not know why the instruction was broken. "I think it is difficult to maintain an absolute instruction," he told Donald Macfadyen, QC, counsel for the enquiry.

Mr Lee disclosed that the dawn operation by four teams of social workers and police went ahead in spite of reservations by the senior social workers drafted into Orkney from Strathclyde, which runs Scotland's biggest social work department.

They were worried about the timing of the seizures, lack of information about the allegations made by three children in care aged seven, eight and nine, a feeling that their expertise was not being properly used, and that alternative arrangements were not considered.

Sandy Fraser and Rab Murphy expressed concern hours before the operation to take the children. Mr Lee, director of the smallest social work department in Scotland, said: "I put it quite clearly to them that either they support us or not or we would have to make other arrangements for further assistance." The Strathclyde social workers then agreed to support the removal of the children from their four families.

Mr Lee said Mr Fraser and Mr Murphy had been given the "gist" of the disclosures but the full transcripts had been seen by only himself, Sue Miller, his senior social

worker, the police and an official of the RSPCC. He thought that the information given to Mr Fraser and Mr Murphy was sufficient. "I believe that we spoke about the reasons for the timing and Mr Fraser and Mr Murphy were accepting of these reasons," said Mr Lee. He added that they were told that their contract was to help take the children, and the disclosures were the concern of the RSPCC and the police.

He later agreed with Mr Macfadyen that the basis for seizing the children was the evidence given by the three children of the W family. Previous work with the W family and the support given to the family by the local community had also been an



● Toys might have hampered children's ability to answer questions — Paul Lee

influence on his decision to seek place of safety orders.

Mr Lee, on his second day of evidence to the enquiry before Lord Clyde, said that media attention after the seizures became intense. Members of his department received death threats, which were reported to the police. There were anonymous telephone calls, a for sale notice was placed in the grounds of his house, his wife was pursued by one journalist, and one of his daughters was intimidated at school by other children. Several abusive letters were sent to his department.

A psychologist was contacted to help department members to cope with the stress. "The confidence of the local population was shaken by the kind of reporting that was going on at the time," he said.

He added that shortly after the seizures a public meeting was held in St Margaret's Hope on South Ronaldsay, the island home of the nine children. He was invited to attend and explain his reasons for taking the children. He

refused. "I did not feel that I was in a position at that stage to be involved in a public meeting that I gathered would be extremely hostile and I would not be prepared to give information about individual families," he said.

All the children except for two sisters were split up to ease the interviewing process by the RSPCC and the police. The RSPCC and Mrs Miller strongly advised that the children should be separated from each other and not allowed to see their parents.

One of the children was taken to Gelliland residential school run by the Church of Scotland. He was studying for his exams and his parents and their solicitors became concerned that essential school work was not being sent to him. Mr Lee was told that he wanted to go to university and his parents were worried that the disruption would seriously jeopardise his chances. The work arrived for the boy as he was about to be returned home.

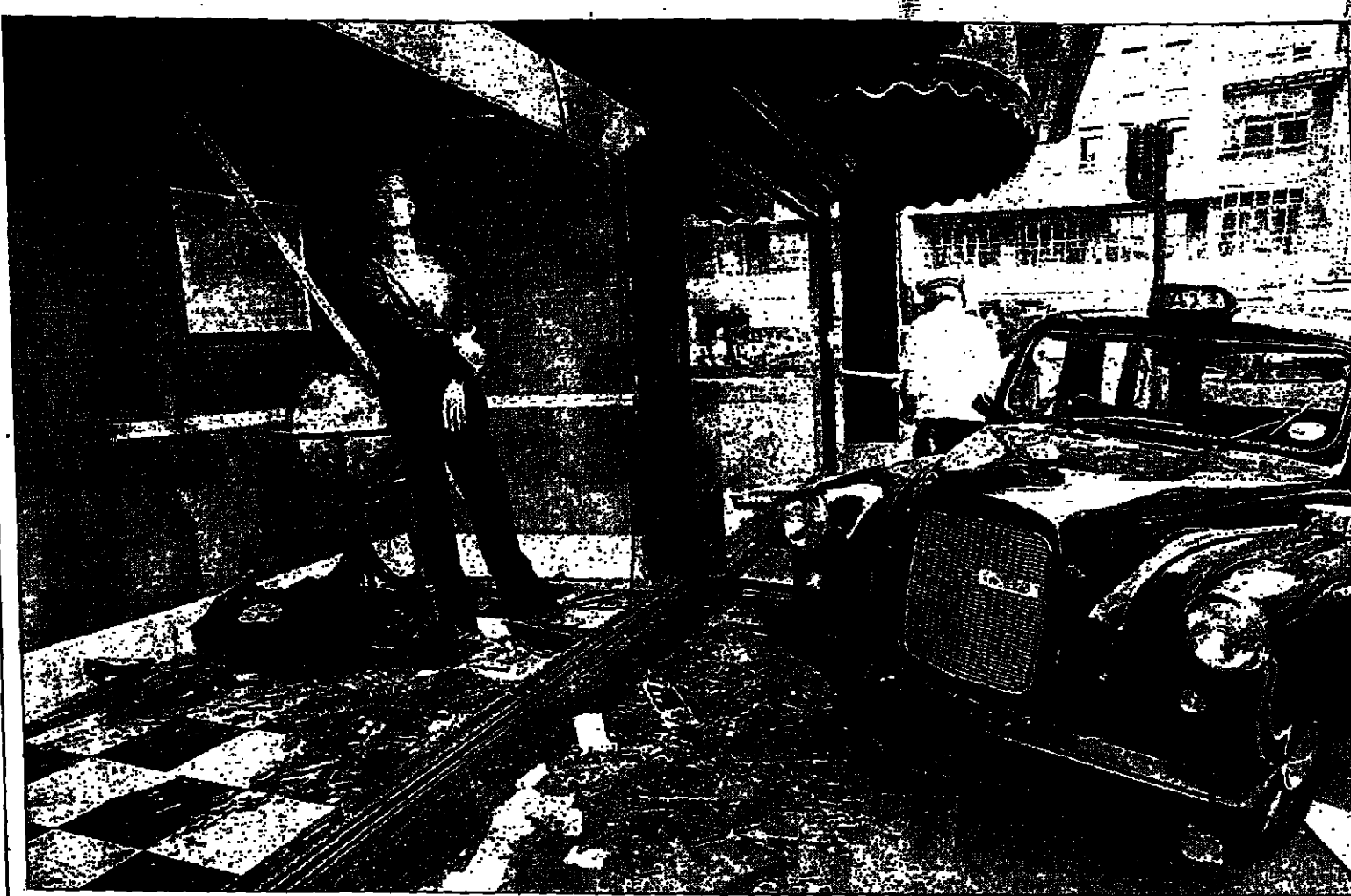
The B family had similar worries that school work for their three children was not reaching them. Eventually school books were passed to the children. The M parents also pleaded with Mr Lee for access to their two sons. This was refused. They then asked if they could either telephone the boys or send a recorded message to them or even have their elder sister visit them. Mr Lee said that he asked Liz McLean, of the RSPCC, if this was possible. She replied that it would not be appropriate.

Mr and Mrs M were concerned that their eldest boy was at the residential school and wanted him and his brother transferred to a Quaker boarding school in southern England. They were told that he wanted to remain at the school until the matter was resolved and that he was under no risk. Mr Lee said that medical examinations of the boy showed no evidence of abuse.

Lord Clyde, before the afternoon session of the enquiry, strongly criticised sensational and irresponsible reporting in some sections of the press yesterday, although he did not specify any publications.

He had been approached by legal representatives who were unanimous in their complaints and in their condemnation of the newspapers involved. He altered his ruling over children and adults saying they should be referred to only by their initials, instead of Christian names.

The enquiry continues today.



A London taxi amidst the debris of a shattered Harrods window after the car went out of control in Knightsbridge, London, yesterday afternoon. An American tourist was killed and his wife seriously injured when they were knocked through the window by the taxi. The couple, who had been window shopping, were trapped beneath the vehicle and 20 people helped to lift it off them. The man, in his late sixties, died later in Westminster hospital.

Bees in orchard land owner in a jam

By ROBIN YOUNG

ROBERT Field has been ordered to remove bees from his home apiary at Burghfield, in Berkshire, where they have been sited happily in an old plum orchard for the past eight years. Neighbours complained after a thick evergreen hedge had been filled and beans planted in a field, attracting the bees and making them fly round their houses.

Mr Field and his father, Oliver, have 330 hives spread over five counties, and are intending to appeal against an

abatement notice served by Newbury district council under the Environment Protection Act. "To me honeybees are part of the environment," said Mr Field senior last night. "How you can protect the environment by destroying it I cannot imagine."

Mr Field said the bees may have increased the bean crop by a quarter, and that countryfolk in the neighbourhood accept that those who live in the country run some risk of being stung.

Robert Field won the National West-

minster Bank's venture capital award last year for his programme of selectively breeding queen bees for docility, good behaviour and disinclination to swarm. "We do not have badly behaved bees here," his father said.

As luck would have it, the bees had been moved a week before the abatement notice arrived. "We only have bees here while we are pollinating the orchard," Mr Field said, "but now we are told they will have to be at least three miles away. We intend to fight this."

Public holiday plea yields cool response

By RAY CLANCY

BRITAIN needs an extra bank holiday in the autumn to celebrate harvest time and boost tourism. Other days off should be spread to prevent the present bottleneck in the spring, the government was advised yesterday.

Easter ought to be a fixed date and school holidays staggered to relieve transport congestion, a report from the National Economic Development Council's tourism and leisure group also recommended. But the suggestions were immediately rejected by the government and industry.

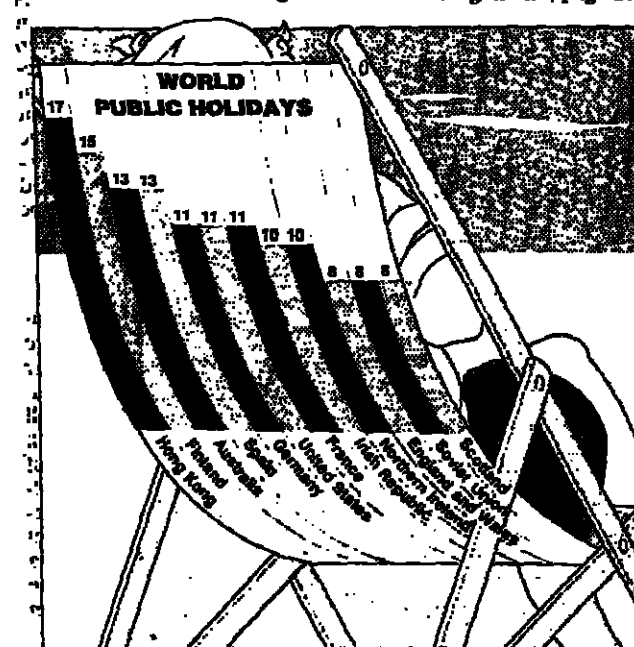
The employment department, officially responsible for telling people when they do not have to work, said that industry would suffer. Britain has fewer public holidays than the rest of Europe and is bottom of the world list with the Soviet Union. "The gov-

ernment has no plans to create a new bank holiday in October. An extra day would damage our industrial competitiveness," a spokeswoman said.

The Confederation of British Industry said employers liked the unbroken production run between August and Christmas. A public holiday in October would encourage workers to take some holidays at that time of year.

Tourism chiefs support the idea of another holiday. Peter Jones, national secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions and a member of the NEDC tourism group, said there should be an extra day in October to bring Britain in line with other European countries. The English Tourist Board also welcomed the plan.

Leading article, page 17



Court told of drugs at school

PUBLIC school pupils snorted the drug "speed" up tubes made of £10 notes, a court was told yesterday.

The pupils, boys and girls aged 15, gathered round a history master's study table as others inhaled a crushed tablet which they thought was amphetamine. Magistrates in Fleetwood, Lancashire, were also told that the master hosted parties at which pupils smoked cannabis and drank whisky.

It was alleged that one pupil at the £7,400-a-year Rossall School in Fleetwood acted as drug-runner for the master, Richard Kurt Trengove, collecting cannabis from a supplier and taking it back to his study at the school.

Mr Trengove, of Southport, a former pupil at Rossall, is accused of supplying speed and cannabis to pupils, possession of the drugs and of allowing his schoolrooms to be used for drug-taking.

David Sumner, prosecuting, said that rumours about the parties spread and Mr Trengove was suspended by the headmaster. "During his suspension, he attempted to contact one of the boys by letter, which was intercepted," Mr Sumner said.

"In this letter he tried to pressurise the boy into keeping quiet. It was peppered with four-letter obscene words — perhaps not the sort of letter one would send between master and pupil."

When police interviewed him, Mr Trengove admitted smoking cannabis and said he felt it was better that pupils did so in his rooms rather than be caught in the dormitory. The case continues today.

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Patten rejects use of camps to ease prison overcrowding

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Home Office minister yesterday ruled out the use of former service camps or any other special measures to counteract overcrowding in the prison system.

Instead, John Patten, minister of state, pointed to the increasing numbers of new prison places being provided by rebuilding programmes, and forecast 2,000 extra places by the end of the year. Another 4,000 places would be opened by the end of next year, the bail hostel programme was expanding, and there was a continuing programme of refurbishment.

The government also had to deal with solving industrial relations problems at a number of prisons, which were adding 600 to 700 prisoners each night to the total number in police cells. In the next few months a record extra 2,500 prison staff were being recruited and the minister said that the ratio of prison officer to prisoners had changed from one to five in the 1950s to a present level of one to two.

Every night, police forces around the country provide cells for about 1,500 remand

and convicted prisoners. The Association of Chief Police Officers, which co-ordinates the operation, says the Home Office has given no assurances about ending the problem.

On BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Mr Patten rejected a call from the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders for the government to cut the number of people in prison, possibly by asking courts to use restraint in their use of custody. He also ruled out the early release of some prisoners.

He said: "If we get over this hump it should be possible to manage without the need to deal with the opening of army camps or any other service camp." He expressed anger at the riot at Moreland prison in South Yorkshire over the weekend and said that planned legislation would offer new penalties against prison rioters.

In a letter to the Home Office released today, the Greater Manchester branch of the National Association of Probation Officers criticises the refurbishment of

Strangeways prison, which was badly damaged in rioting last year, as insanitary. The design, which incorporates toilets in cells, means that prisoners sharing cells in the remand wings, which open this week, will be denied privacy. The association suggests that prisoners be given the same hygiene standards as those enjoyed by the general population.

Locks were being changed at Canterbury prison, Kent, yesterday after a master key that had been missing for three weeks was found hidden in a prisoner's cell. Warders complained that they had not been told of the missing key and passed a motion of no confidence in the governor.

Peter Langley, a member of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "We should have been told, and now we want an independent enquiry." The Home Office, however, said that the loss of the key "wasn't that important".



Looking the part: members of the Mozart Festival Orchestra preparing yesterday for a series of four Mozart bicentenary concerts at the Barbican Hall during which the players will wear 18th-century costume

Gang used copier to forge cheques

A GANG of forgers used a high-tech colour photocopier to set up a sophisticated cheque-making factory, a court was told yesterday.

The gang of three men and a woman then paid the bogus cheques into bank accounts under false names and withdrew the money from cash-points. Within six months they had printed £100,000 worth of cheques and cashed nearly half that amount. They made a further £60,000 from thefts and burglaries.

Kevin Marchelak, described as the ringleader of the gang, detailed the crimes on an electronic personal organiser using the password "hole in the wall". Swansea Crown Court was told. The code was broken by electronics technicians in Japan.

Marchelak, of Waun Wen, Swansea, was jailed for six years. Maxwell Pavey and David Fernandez were jailed for five and two and a half years respectively.

Marchelak's wife, Margaret, was given a two-year sentence, suspended for two years, after admitting conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Councils the key in drive to beat crime

By OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authorities should have statutory responsibility with the police for the setting up and promotion of community crime prevention programmes, according to a report published yesterday by a Home Office crime prevention working party.

Set up to examine progress on calls by the Home Office for the spread of crime prevention at local levels, the working party studied 100 reports from local authorities, the police and national groups. The report says that the use of the term "crime prevention" is too narrow and implies that the work is solely the responsibility of the police. It suggests instead

"community safety", which could be used to encourage wider participation.

Making a local authority share crime prevention with the police would also mean continuity. An overall strategy could be created at council level with local action groups for smaller areas. These would include voluntary groups, the probation service and the business sector.

The report called for the creation of a code of conduct agreed between government departments, police and local authorities which would provide guidance on taking up the report's ideas.

Technology, page 29

Fireplaces take heat out of art problem

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

EIGHTEENTH-century fireplaces are to provide the Courtauld Institute galleries with a solution to a 21st century problem that almost led to the galleries' closure: where do you put air-conditioning in an inviolable old building? The answer is: up the chimney.

The institute and its art collection moved to Somerset House, in the Strand, in central London, last summer at a cost of £10 million, but



Farr: galleries caught out by the heat of summer almost immediately paintings started to react to the heat and breath of visitors, and summer temperatures.

Dennis Farr, director of the galleries, said: "We knew that it could get warm in the galleries, but we hadn't anticipated that we would have one of the hottest summers on record, nor the numbers of visitors we got. The combination pushed the low-tech system we had to the limit."

Consultants recommended a full-scale atmospheric control system needing structural changes that would have cost millions of pounds and been blocked by English Heritage.

Now, the sumptuous fireplaces are to provide the answer, with variable-speed fans put on chimneys and linked to sensors on walls and a computerised building management system responding to changes in heat and humidity.

The £250,000 system is to be installed over five weeks from September 9. Entry prices will be cut during work.

Mini-gene hope for wasting disease

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A MINI-GENE has been engineered by British scientists that may pave the way for a treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, one of the most common and fatal muscle-wasting disorders.

Tests indicate that the gene, made by stitching together key fragments of genetic material taken from healthy human tissue, can restore production of a vital protein which is missing in the muscles of victims. The work, funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Group and the Medical Research Council, is being hailed as a major step forward towards a treatment.

An average of two boys each week are born in Britain with the inherited, incurable disorder. Five years ago, researchers linked the disease to a defect in the genetic codes that control the production of a protein called dystrophin.

The mini-gene, which has been made by a team at the United Medical and Dental Schools (UMDS) of Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals, London, carries the basic codes needed to make the missing protein.

Preliminary studies on mice that have the same genetic defect as Duchenne sufferers show that once injected into muscle the mini-gene can restore production of the missing protein for more than a year. The researchers have also managed to clone the mini-gene in large quantities using bacteria.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature*, are part of a collaboration between UMDS, the John Radcliffe hospital, Oxford, and the University of Wisconsin in the United States.

The amount of dystrophin being made in the muscles is too low to be of therapeutic use but the research team is searching for a better way of getting the gene to the right part of the diseased muscle so that enough of the missing protein is made.

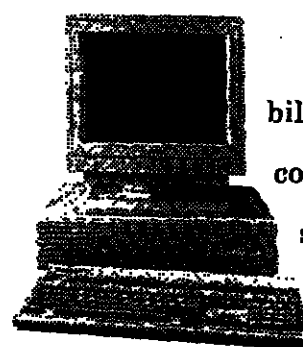
British Association, page 6
Technology, page 29

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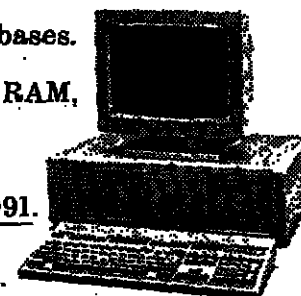
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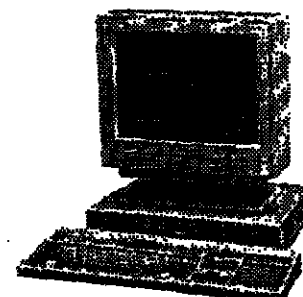
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FOOD POISONING

Government accused of failing to back research

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

RAPID methods of detecting the bacteria that cause epidemics of food poisoning are urgently needed, but the government is failing to support the essential research, according to a senior microbiologist.

Between 600,000 and six million cases of illness transmitted through food are occurring each year in England and Wales, William Waites, professor of food microbiology at Nottingham university, told the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Plymouth. The number of such illnesses caused by salmonella and other bacteria had risen throughout the past decade, but perhaps only 10 per cent of all cases were reported, he said. A similar pattern had emerged in America, where more than 12 million cases of food poisoning were estimated to occur annually, leading to at least 500 deaths.

Although few food poisoning deaths resulted among otherwise healthy people in Britain, the very young, the very old and those with weak defences could suffer serious harm.

The most common organisms involved were

salmonella and campylobacter. Another bacterium, listeria monocytogenes, was responsible for only 200 or 300 cases a year, but could be fatal and cause abortion, stillbirths and brain damage in the fetuses of infected women. Several cases of campylobacter infection could cause some patients to lose as much as 21 lb within a week, he said.

"Detection of these bacteria in foods can take up to seven days using traditional methods. Foods with a short shelf-life can be sold and eaten within this time. New, rapid methods are urgently needed. Unfortunately, within the UK there has been a lack of determination to support the infrastructure necessary to reduce food-borne illness."

The professor said that the government-funded Agricultural and Food Research Council had closed some of its institutes, including one on meat research at Langford, near Bristol, which had an international reputation for expertise.

"The government has failed to support basic and strategic research, and the AFRC has failed to provide any new grants for studies related to food safety to higher educational establishments over the past year."

Government policy on food research was inconsistent, he said. Some of the recommendations by an expert committee last year were rejected by the government in spite of their universal acceptance by microbiologists. Yet a health department warning more than a year ago about the salmonella hazards associated with eggs, which caused a 25 per cent fall in egg sales, had not been rescinded. "This means that unless the egg you had for breakfast this morning was thoroughly cooked, you are playing Russian roulette with the risk of infection."

Functional food, page 13

NEWS IN BRIEF

80 is not too old for sex, says scientist

Retirement can help people enjoy sex until well into their eighties provided they are reasonably good health and have an interested and interesting partner. Dr George Giarchi, head of the human sciences faculty at the Polytechnic South West, Plymouth, told the conference.

Research had shown that nearly half of couples in their 60s and 15 per cent of those in their 80s still enjoyed frequent sex. "Virility at 21 is considered to be lechery at 71. But there are some people who fall in love for the first time at over 80," he said.

Growth theory

Children's growth can be stunted by an unhappy upbringing, according to Martin Savage, an endocrinologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. The emotional environment in which food is eaten is important for growth, he said, reporting the results of a study of 46 four-year olds in Southwark, south London.

Long life diet

Zakus, a diet of light corn wafers, seasoned with potted cheese and tarragon, may be the key to a long life. This is the favourite food of the Abkhazis, in the Soviet republic of Georgia, who claim to have 21,000 centenarians among their population, compared to only 3,000 or so in Britain, said George Giarchi.

In bad taste

Cod liver oil, despised by generations of children, is still as good for you as ever, said Professor John Sargent, of Stirling university. Research since the 1970s had shown that the unsaturated fatty acids it contains can reduce the symptoms of heart disease, arthritis and psoriasis.

Sea medicine

Compounds derived from marine algae are being used as medicines to treat bacterial and fungal infections, and some have anti-cancer properties, said Gerald Blunden, head of the school of pharmacy and biomedical sciences at Portsmouth polytechnic.

Early life

The first living organisms on the Earth were probably made of materials very different from modern life forms. The genetic messages in the first organisms were held in tiny mineral crystals rather than cells, said Graham Cairns-Smith, of Glasgow university.

Fossil display

The fossilised skeleton of a rhycolosaur, a predecessor of the dinosaurs, found near Budleigh Salterton, Devon, in April 1990 by a group from Polytechnic South West, has been put on display at the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.



Face of change: the landscaped gardens of the Doddingdon and Rollo estate divide the refurbished blocks of flats, left, and buildings awaiting the same treatment, right

HOUSING

Architects seeking to landscape crime out of the problem estates

Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor, hears how variants in housing estate design can affect the incidence of crime, and of a £50 million experiment to discover whether changes in landscape can reduce social breakdown

THE quality of life on problem housing estates can be improved markedly by a series of design changes, an architect told the British Association meeting yesterday.

Research at King's College London, led by Professor Alice Coleman, has shown that the incidence of crime, vandalism and violence can be predicted from the physical characteristics of an estate.

A £50 million project, inspired by her work, was set up in 1988 to improve a selection of estates, with the results being independently monitored by Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm.

Yesterday, Peter Silver, an architect working in Professor Coleman's team, said that £43 million had been allocated to seven estates so far, and that work had begun. The schemes will be completed in 1992-3.

The King's College team has identified 28 design variables that can affect the quality of life on estates. They include such things as the number of dwellings served by each entrance, the number per corridor, the "defensible space" around a

building, and the number of walkways and interconnected exits.

For each variable, the team has defined harmless and harmful values. Up to 12 dwellings per block, for example, is considered harmless; more than 12, and problems mount. Blocks of three storeys are harmless, more than three harmful. For any estate, the number of harmful values can be added up to give a "disadvantage score" on a scale of one to 16.

"A clear-cut relationship exists between this disadvantage score and the proportion of blocks on an estate suffering from social breakdown," Mr Silver said. "Where the score is high,

very few blocks escape the attentions of criminals. Where the score is lower, more blocks are problem-free, and the best ones, scoring zero, did not report a single crime during the year, even though they were located in an exceptionally high crime area. The worse the design, therefore, the worse the response in anti-social behaviour."

The changes now being made under the Dice project (Design Improvement Controlled Experiment) will reduce the scores of the estates chosen, and then the results will be independently monitored to see whether improvements occur, and whether they are sustained over time. Experience from more

piecemeal changes by other agencies to other estates gives cause for optimism, Mr Silver said. "When overhead walkways were removed from a Westminster estate, there was also a reduction in the numbers of dwellings per entrance and interconnected lifts and stairs, and the burglary rate promptly fell by 55 per cent," he said. "The effect was still in force at the last check, three years later."

In Southwark, the separate enclosure of one block on its own site eradicated litter and graffiti, and also the fear of crime. Tenants who had kept ground-floor windows boarded up to prevent breakage and burglary felt it was at last safe to remove the boarding and let daylight into their homes.

"Reports of this kind could be multiplied. In each case, one or two items of design improvement have produced definite bonuses in terms of quality of life. Consequently, there is every hope that the multiple types of improvement envisaged for the Dice estates will bring multiple gains."

Science and Technology, page 29

SUCCESS STORY

Bonsais bloom in revitalised sin-bin

By BILL FROST

BONSAI trees were blooming in a Battersea underground garage yesterday, at the heart of what was once one of London's archetypal problem estates.

Ten years ago, the tower block basement was the last resting place for stolen and stripped cars. The thieves and vandals who once terrorised the Doddingdon and Rollo estate are long gone. The underground garages are now used as workshops by local entrepreneurs, among them Jack Wilkins, aged 75, Battersea's best-known bonsai producer.

Above ground, the estate has been transformed too. The council blocks have been given a facelift: balconies with bright coloured awnings, a new paint job, and an intercom system aimed at preventing unwelcome visitors gaining access to the flats. Many of the bridges between buildings, once an escape route for vandals and burglars, have been demolished.

In 1982, Wandsworth borough council decided to reverse what looked like being the Doddingdon and Rollo's terminal decline into sin-bin status, by giving

a six-figure grant to the local community association. Its gamble paid off.

Where once there was derelict land littered with abandoned fridges at the centre of estate, there are now landscaped gardens and children's play areas. Unsightly late Sixties architecture has been made bearable and graffiti has been banished.

Pauline Taffurelli, a spokeswoman for the community association, said: "The Doddingdon used to be a nightmare. The electric wires were always going wrong and some problem with the drains meant raw sewage would come up through your bath and toilet and flood the flat. It happened to us three times in as many months. There were some pretty nasty people around as well."

Wendy Langhorne, a job counsellor on the estate, said: "There has been a transformation over the last few years. People have been given the opportunity to make their home a place to be proud of. There is good community spirit here now, and it seems to be getting better all the time."

MALINGERING

One man's illness is another's day of rest

By NIGEL HAWKES

ILLNESS and injury are in the eye of the beholder. "I am ill, you are malingering, he is a total fraud" appears to be the way in which many people conjugate the verb to ail. Acting as amateur psychologists, they make assumptions about other people and attribute motives that are seldom justified, according to Margaret Mitchell, of Queen's College, Glasgow.

She found that almost a quarter of respondents in a survey answered yes to the statement: "People who get injured in some way and temporarily can't go to their work are usually in no hurry to get better." Almost a third agreed that "being injured and off work gives people a well-earned break, like an unexpected holiday". Almost two thirds thought that malingering was "quite a problem" for employers.

Yet when she studied people who were convalescing from injury she found that far from having a good time they were actually getting more and more depressed. She identified no malingerers.

When she looked at circumstances thought to delay the recovery of patients, she found that none of those proposed by GPs, such as job

dissatisfaction or the desire for financial compensation, were influences on recovery time.

One problem, she said, was that nobody really knew how long it ought to take to recover from a common injury such as a sprained ankle. Nine GPs gave estimates for one patient that averaged four weeks, but ranged from one week to eight. The actual recovery time of the patient was six weeks. Such variations left plenty of room for others to doubt the motives of the injured patient.

TOXIN TURN-AROUND

Poison helps to treat disease

By THOMSON PRENTICE

BOTULINUM toxins, the most lethal poisons known, have been tamed and turned into a treatment for a rare disease. They are also helping musicians and athletes with muscular disorders and are an answer to writer's cramp, the association was told.

Work at the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research, a branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service, at Porton Down, Salisbury, has led to the use of the toxins in

treating conditions involving uncontrolled muscle spasm.

The toxins cause botulism, a rare but often fatal disease, with symptoms including widespread muscular weakness and paralysis. Scientists have developed techniques in which minute quantities of toxin are used to combat dystonia, an incurable neurological disorder that produces severe muscle contractions.

"Toxin treatment now affords relief to many sufferers of this and other related conditions," Peter Hamble-

ton, a scientist at the Porton Down centre, said.

The assumption that the sea disperses and dilutes toxic materials until their concentration is so low as to be harmless may be wrong, Tony Seabing, of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, told the meeting.

He said that, rather than dispersing, materials may be concentrated at the sea surface, at the bottom, or at frontal regions, the boundaries between different masses of water.

cer studies at the Beatson Institute, Glasgow, said.

The institute is named after Sir George Beatson, who in 1896 demonstrated that surgical removal of the ovaries of premenopausal women with breast cancer could result in shrinkage of their tumours.

From that work, it has been shown that the hormone oestrogen, produced predominantly by the ovaries, is a growth factor for certain types of breast cancer, Professor Kerr said. "There have been remarkable steps in our understanding of the processes which control the growth of breast cancers. On a clinical level, we would hope to be able to exploit these in the design of new anti-cancer drugs."

Breast cancer is the most common tumour affecting women in Britain, and kills about 15,000 a year. The disease is diagnosed in a further 24,000 women annually. "Current treatments of hormone manipulation and chemotherapy are moderately effective, but there is no doubt that novel drugs are required," Professor Kerr said.

If researchers could delineate some of the biochemical differences between cancer cells and normal host cells, it should be possible to devise drugs that interfered with growth factor pathways. For example, the drugs could prevent the release or activation of the factors, or hinder their role in the division of cancer cells.

Further research could lead to use of growth factors to allow other cancer drugs to be given in a safer way, and at higher doses, Professor Kerr said. Most such drugs have a number of side-effects, including damage to bone marrow, which leaves patients vulnerable to life-threatening infections.

Early clinical trials using growth factors involved in production of marrow cells suggested that the factors could have a protective effect, helping speed the recovery of cells and reducing infection rates, he added.

Health, page 13



Ear to the ground: Felix Hess, a physicist and artist from the Rijksuniversiteit at Groningen. The Netherlands, demonstrating one of his "electronic frogs", tiny machines designed for "chirping and silence". The electronic devices listen and respond to the sounds that each one emits, but are silenced by any other noise.

They sound like crickets or frogs, creating various rhythms that depend on the distribution of the machines, the acoustics of the surrounding area, and the background noise. The machines are intended as a work of art, but Dr Hess said: "Perhaps science and art are not so widely separated as is often thought."

Day of computer-guided crewless ships on the horizon

By OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

WITHIN a generation, fleets of unmanned cargo vessels could be sailing the seas like the Marie Celeste, with a radar as lookout and a computer at the helm. No human hand will touch the tiller from the moment the ship leaves its berth until it reaches its destination. Whole fleets of ghostly ships will pass in the night without so much as a shouted aboy or the wave of a handkerchief.

Or such was the image put before the British Association by Roland Burns, of Polytechnic South West. That he was perfectly serious is evidenced by a Japanese ship, the 10,000-tonne ore-carrier Shitaya Merchant, having recently completed two days of unmanned trials in the perilous 20-mile wide strait between Japan and Korea before returning undamaged to the port of Kagoshima.

"The vessel handled perfectly in the shallow, rock-strewn channels in a voyage that was planned and executed by onboard computers," Dr Burns said.

Unmanned ships would become a reality, he said, for two reasons - cost and safety. Even though crews are smaller than they used to be, wages, heating, lighting and food remain a big expense, and 80 per cent of collisions between ships are caused by human error. Automatic guidance would be far safer, Dr Burns said.

The ship's course would be programmed into an onboard computer before it sailed, similar to an aircraft autopilot. The ship's progress across the ocean would be tracked by a gyrocompass, which could make necessary corrections, and the course would be planned, where possible, to avoid bad weather.

The ship's owner could feed fresh

instructions to the ship via satellite, even in mid-ocean, if the course or destination had to be altered. At its destination, separate berthing systems, also computer-controlled, would be used to bring it safely to its mooring. Collisions would be avoided by using radar plotting and avoidance systems, which would detect approaching vessels and make the course changes, in line with existing sea regulations.

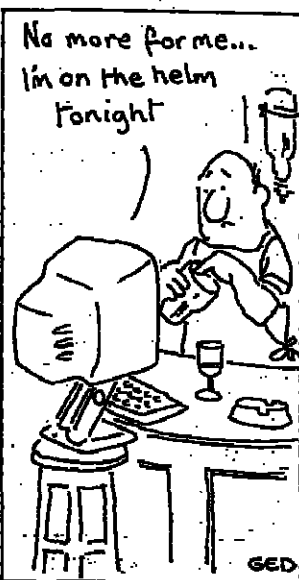
Small vessels which went undetected by the radar were, however, a problem, although Dr Burns suggested that ultimately every vessel afloat would need to carry an identification signal.

The Japanese, he said, envisaged entire fleets of vessels sailing unmanned in convoy, under the guidance of a single mother ship. The lead ship, which would be manned, could help any vessel in the fleet that needed

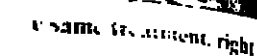
maintenance during its voyage. "At least three major Japanese shipyards have designs for trans-Pacific computer-controlled container ships and tankers which could be operational by the mid-1990s," he said.

Dr Burns even envisaged Channel ferries loaded with cars and passengers but with no crews. "Already ferry captains turn on automatic piloting devices as soon as they are outside harbour." The cost of the sailorless ship might be an extra £1 million for a vessel costing £20 million. "Some people have estimated a payback time of less than three years," he said.

Did this, then, mark the end of the British tar, already something of an endangered species? "Yes, I think so," Dr Burns said. "Plenty of other jobs have disappeared under the impact of new technology, and I suspect seamanship will be no different."



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and is a member of the local community association. He is a member of the

Although there was a demand for bridges at the border, at a state there are many kind of gardens and children's play areas. In the past, the late Soviet era, there has been made a lot of work. It has been made a lot of work.

Later, in 1976, Lathrop, a member of the city's commission on the environment, said that the city had seemed to be "looking for a scapegoat" for the diseases that were being wrongfully linked with the city's sewer system. "The sewage system was not the cause of the disease," he said. "It happened to people who lived in the city as many as 10 years before there were any problems with people around the city."

"I don't think I should worry, a job will come up on the estate and I will have been working on it for some time over the years. People have been waiting for the opportunity to buy the house for a long time. I will have to find a place to live. There is now no room for me here now. I will have to be getting out of the house."

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Enjoying the pleasures of contented retirement

By MICHAEL HORNELL

MOST retired people are healthy, independent and happy, even though nearly a quarter of them had felt unable to plan adequately for pensions, savings or accommodation when at work.

These are the main findings of a survey of attitudes to ageing by Eric Midwinter, director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing.

The survey, carried out for British Gas with fieldwork by NOP, into retired people over 55, tends to refute the observation by the historian A.J.P. Taylor that the greatest problem about old age is the fear that it may go on too long.

In a foreword to the survey report, the Princess of Wales, patron of Help the Aged, says: "A surprising proportion of

those interviewed said they enjoyed life more, or as much, in retirement. This will help balance the more usual connection of old age with illness and decline. It was also particularly pleasing to see that the special relationship between grandparents and grandchildren continues to flourish.

"Of course, the report also shows that for a minority of older people there are real problems of poor health, disability and loneliness - as well as a range of ethnic minority issues - that need further effort."

Although most people equate old age with declining health, 78 per cent of respondents over 55 reported themselves to be in good health. Only 4 per cent described their

health as poor. Some 30 per cent had not seen their GP in the previous six months and only 6 per cent aged over 75 said they were in poor health.

Dr Midwinter, who is 59 and soon to retire, said: "Although we cannot pretend ill health is not a problem in older age, it is definitely not the gloomy emblem of later life that people seem to think it is."

Although loneliness is widely regarded as a key problem of old age, only 9 per cent of over-55s said that they were often lonely. Indeed, 79 per cent of the retired speak to someone else every day and 62 per cent visit relatives or friends at least once a week.

The survey finds that fear of crime is largely unfounded;

three quarters of senior citizens did not realise they are less likely to be victims than any other age group.

The widening gap between poverty and affluence among retired people is highlighted by the report. It finds that 33 per cent are in households receiving less than £88 a week, while 16 per cent have income of more than £200 and 3 per cent more than £280 a week. Thirty-one per cent say that they sometimes struggle to pay for necessities, and 19 per cent have problems keeping warm in winter.

Helen Maunders, British Gas customer services manager, said: "While it is a small minority of our retired customers who face these problems, we are naturally concerned to do all we can to help. There is no question of old or disabled customers having their gas supplies cut off during the winter months."

The report concludes that only 30 per cent of retired people enjoy life less in retirement and that 80 per cent are visited by, or receive letters and telephone calls from, their grandchildren.



The singer Elkie Brooks standing among about £20 million of furs from up to 250,000 animals, which were buried in a giant grave in

north Devon yesterday. The fur coats and stoles had been collected from all over Britain during a two-year "amnesty" declared by the

anti-fur trade group Lynx. Council officials said, however, that the burial was illegal and that the garments would have to be dug up.

HOME OWNERSHIP

	Total %
Own/bought	80
Rented from council	24
Rented privately	4
Sheltered - private	6
Sheltered - council	6
Other	1
Don't know/not answered	1

* Survey of 764 retired people over 55

LIVING ALONE

	Total %	Male %	Female %
Live alone	37	25	45
Live with spouse only	48	61	38
Live with spouse/family members	9	11	8
Live with children	3	1	4
Live with other family members	3	1	4
Live with friends	1	1	1
Other	1	1	1
Don't know/not answered	1	1	1

* Survey of 764 retired people over 55

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Brewer to call in arbitrators over pub rent cases

By TONY DAWE

A LEADING brewery company will announce today that it is prepared to meet a major demand of publicans, which has been backed by more than 120 MPs, in an attempt to ease difficulties for the licensed trade.

Allied Breweries will confirm that independent arbitrators will decide fair rents in cases disputed by its tenants. Publicans say that introduction of new leases with much higher rents by big brewers threatens their livelihoods and will lead to higher pub prices.

In a statement to be released

today, Roy Moss, chairman of Allied Breweries, says: "We are aware of the views of our licensees and aim to ease this period of transition to the new leases. We currently have good licensees, whom we intend to keep. The announcement to use independent experts is one reflection of this."

Allied's plan was hailed by the 18,000-member National Licensed Victuallers' Association as "the first crack in the wall erected by the major brewers against their tenants".

The Times has learnt that the plan follows a request by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, for brewers to be more "even-handed" in negotiations with tenants. The request was made at private meetings this month with leaders of major brewing firms and reflects the minister's concern about developments in the industry.

The government intended that regulations being introduced would increase competition by requiring big brewers to free many of their pubs from the tie of selling their own brands and would improve tenants' security. The victuallers' association has claimed, however, that the

Inquest on divers is adjourned

An inquest into the deaths of two divers who were killed after their decompression chamber was swept from the deck of a barge by a typhoon was adjourned yesterday pending technical evidence.

Stephen Hardy, aged 33, of Gomersal, West Yorkshire, and Terence Dennison, aged 46, of Hull, died with two others who were also in the chamber when it sank in the South China Sea on August 15. The inquest at Huddersfield was told that the bodies of the two men, who had drowned, were recovered four days later. Their funeral is to be held tomorrow.

Invalid robbed

Two hooded men robbed a disabled woman aged 52 in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, as she drove home on an invalid buggy. The men stole £257 from the woman, who passed out, and took her keys and stick to prevent her reaching help.

Jewish message

The BBC is to broadcast a Jewish new year message for the first time. It will be delivered on BBC2 next Thursday by Dr Jonathan Sacks, who becomes Chief Rabbi on Sunday.

Camper burnt

Karen Thewlis, aged 23, of Leeds, badly burned her face, arms and legs when a methanol spirit stove caught fire while being refilled in a tent at Reighton Sands holiday village, North Yorkshire.

German gifts

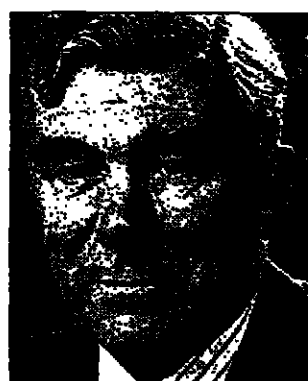
Students at the RAF's test pilot school at Boscombe Down, Wiltshire, are familiarising themselves with two Soviet combat jets, a Sukhoi Su-22 and a MiG 23, presented by the unified German air force.

Gas blunder

Gas supplies to all 538 homes in the village of Harthill, South Yorkshire, were cut off when Glen Saint, a builder, turned off a supply valve after accidentally cutting through a gas main.

336 jobs lost

The London Brick Company's works at Calvert, Buckinghamshire, is to close with the loss of 336 jobs because of the recession.



Moss: offer to Allied Breweries publicans

brewers have responded by closing less profitable pubs, taking more profitable tenanted houses into management and imposing higher rents in return for greater security.

Allied argues that it has paid generous compensation to tenants whose pubs have been taken over by brewery managers and that benefits of its new Vanguard lease have been misunderstood. These include security of tenure, the right to assign a lease to someone of the tenant's choosing, profit from machine income and business planning support.

Under the new arbitration scheme, the independent expert will be agreed by tenant and brewery and will be a fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors with knowledge of valuation of licensed premises. Mr Moss said he expected Allied's rent proposals to be vindicated.

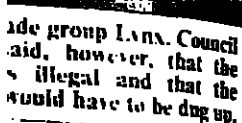
Use of rent arbitrators was called for by more than 120 MPs in a Commons motion.

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Today, Ray Moss, chairman of Allied Breweries, says: "We are aware of the views of our customers and aim to ease this period of transition to the new brand. We currently have good customers, whom we intend to keep. The announcement to use independent experts is one reflection of this."

Adachi's plan was hailed by the 1,000-member National United Farmers' Association as "the first crack in the wall erected by the big boys against the tenant." It has been learned from the press that following a request from Adachi, the trade secretary for brewers to be used as an "intermediary" in negotiations with tenants. The request was made at prices averaging this month will average of major brewing line and reflects the minister's concern about developments in the industry.

The government intended that regulations being introduced would increase competition by requiring big game to force many of their products from the tie of selling their own brands and would strengthen national security. The National Fish Association has argued, however, that the



Mass offer to Allies
Hermes publicans

owners have responded by leasing less profitable pubs as well as more profitable tenanted houses into management and enjoying higher rents in return for greater security.

Atwood argues that it has paid excessive compensation to owners of pubs that have been sold to brewers, mainly to the benefit of its

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Under the new arrangement, the independent entities will be owned by tenants and brewers and will be subject to the Royal Institution's control.

flow of the Royal Warrant to the Chartered Surveyors with knowledge of valuation of leased premises. Mr Moss noted Allied's request.

and he expected that
approximately 100 arbitrators
would be in more than 120
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GORBACHEV

Muscovites demand impeachment as plot theories gain ground

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

JUST within sight of the underpass where piles of bearded flowers commemorate the "martyrs of the August revolution", a small group of people are collecting signatures. On the wall they have nailed a poster that reads "Impeach Gorbachev".

A smaller notice says: "Our parliamentary deputies have every reason to impeach the president, indeed, they are obliged to." Another reads: "We contend that Gorbachev bears at least indirect blame for the fascist putsch."

The only body that can impeach the president is the Congress of People's Deputies, the Soviet Union's full parliament, which will meet in emergency session next Monday. The original purpose of the session was to affirm constitutional and personnel changes necessitated by last week's failed coup. However, pressure is increasing for a motion of no-confidence in the president.

Mr Gorbachev has, to put it mildly, an image problem. No figure with any authority has supported the view that he took any part in the coup. Perhaps the strongest public criticism came from Eduard Shevardnadze, the former for-

eign minister, who pointed out Mr Gorbachev's imprudence in taking a holiday at the time he did.

The Soviet president ridiculed the idea that he was implicated when he addressed the Russian parliament last week. His difficulty is that the people on the Moscow Metro believe differently. They refer to the warning about a "reactionary coup" given by Aleksandr Yakovlev, the president's former adviser, when he resigned from the Communist party only days before the coup took place. They cannot understand how the president could allow himself to be betrayed by almost all institutions of Soviet power and by his personal chief of staff. At the very least, they say, he is to blame for his poor selection of staff.

The people on the Moscow Metro also nurture a long-standing gut feeling of mistrust towards the president and most people in high places. While Mr Gorbachev was in captivity, something akin to sympathy for him could be detected in Moscow. As an opinion poll conducted by the French BVA institute showed, 35 per cent of Muscovites had a favourable opin-

ion of Mr Gorbachev on August 23, two days after the coup — a far higher rating than he usually enjoyed — but by Sunday, his rating had fallen to 22 per cent. A random sample taken now would give an even lower figure.

Muscovites love a good conspiracy theory and such speculation was legion the moment Mr Gorbachev returned to the capital. The most popular theory suggested that the president had staged the coup, calculating that however it turned out he could not lose. He could either use it as a pretext for declaring a state of emergency, so outmanoeuvring Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, and strengthening his position with his hardliners, or he could remove his hardline opponents in the party, government and military establishment if the democratic forces rushed to his aid. In either case, he would return to Moscow in a stronger position than before.

One glance at Mr Gorbachev and his wife when they returned from the Crimea should have been enough to scotch that version. If there ever was a conspiracy to enhance the president's standing, it misfired badly.



Berlin greeting: Gavril Popov, the mayor of Moscow, being welcomed to Berlin where he signed a friendship accord with his opposite number

MEDIA

French press aids Pravda

Paris — The French media yesterday publicised an article from *Pravda* denouncing the ban decreed on its publication by Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. The article, signed by Oleg Losoto, the first deputy editor-in-chief, thanked the Western media for rallying to the paper's defence.

Pravda, his article says, will become an independent, staff-owned newspaper devoted to

defending democracy and human rights. Agatha Duparc, of the Paris-based magazine, *Courrier International*, which publishes extracts from the world's press, said the article "was dictated from Moscow over the telephone by one of the journalists, who was afraid the line might be cut".

The magazine shared the article with *France-Info*, an all-news radio station, and *Libération*, the left-wing daily,

which published it in a spread of Soviet press extracts. A spokesman for *Courrier International* denied that the magazine sought merely to give *Pravda* the voice it has been denied in its own country. "Our attitude on the international press is to publish articles no matter what their political tendencies to give our readers as broad a picture as possible of what's happening," she said. (AP)

THE KGB

Reforms promise to strengthen security service

By CHRISTOPHER LEE

THE KGB, the Committee for State Security, is being reformed — or so say the zealots of the second revolution. Certainly the appointment of an "outsider" as KGB chairman was reasonable. Vadim Bakatin is not tainted with KGB history, so it will be easier for him to make changes. As with many institutions, the KGB is riddled with favours waiting to be called in.

The Tsarist secret service, from Ivan the Terrible's *Oprichnina* onwards, had great powers to arrest, imprison and exile. Feliks Dzerzhinsky's Cheka and its successors which protected the Soviet Union from 1917 until 1991 had, in practice, similar powers of investigation and manipulation of rights and freedoms. No one questioned this authority.

Today, the state security apparatus is going through another change. But this probably does not mean greater freedom for the 280 million people of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union remains an unstable society. Independence will produce jealousies, diverging ambitions among and within the republics and further unrest. The need for a stern political security system is as great as ever. When Boris Yeltsin became president of the Russian Federation, he, the reforming liberal, demanded his own KGB.

Reform of the KGB is not so difficult. Within the service are those who have long said that reform was necessary if the state security was to be preserved. Just as reform of the military will produce a more efficient system, the restructuring of the KGB will increase its already considerable capabilities.

The task of reform is twofold. The overseas role of the committee, as operated by the first chief directorate, may be streamlined, even strengthened. There will always be a job for the external intelligence gatherers and analysts. It is the home-based operation that is in need of restructuring. The 200,000-plus uni-

formed KGB, including passport control officers, could come under the interior ministry. This is not important. The internal civilian groups need their command and control diagram redrawn to produce a system of checks and balances.

Some in the KGB have argued since 1979 that growing internal unrest within the Soviet Union increases the need to reform and streamline the KGB, if it is to remain the effective eyes and ears of state security. But the country's leaders, particularly in Moscow, will want to distance themselves from the organisation's grim reputation of cruelties and infringements of fundamental human rights.

In one sense the KGB is finished. It only needs the new leaders to remove the badge, take down the sign from the Lubyanka and burn the letter heads. The KGB would be disbanded. But then what? A new name for the same organisation would appear. The revolution can never be secure. The Soviet Union and its individual republics will have their KGB, by whatever name. There will be fewer cloaks and daggers, but there will always be a need to seek out unacceptable dissent. Political and — above all — economic self-assurance is still a long way off in the new Soviet Union.

The author is Whittaker Fellows at Emmanuel College, Cambridge



Dzerzhinsky: set up first secret police service

LENIN

Curator blind to a loss of faith

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

FOR millions of Soviet citizens, the study of Lenin's life and public obeisance to his memory has been a tedious duty that they will now abandon with relief. For a few, it is an all-consuming passion.

One such citizen is Irina Romankevich, a stout but feverishly energetic lady in her mid-fifties with cropped steel-grey hair, who has been propagating her faith in Lenin's genius for most of her working life.

She has devoted 22 years to building up and tending with infinite care what must surely be one of the most attractive of the Lenin museums dotted across the Soviet Union. Her little empire consists of a 10-hectare site, about 30 minutes' drive south of Moscow, and a row of attractive wooden houses, in one of which the Ulyanov family — Lenin's real name — lived for about three years at the turn of the century.

In a country where nature is almost invariably allowed to run wild, there is something very soothing about the rosebeds lined with neat stone

paths that she has made, or rather cajoled generations of hapless communist volunteers into making, around the Lenin homestead.

Churning out facts about Lenin at a terrifying pace, her voice rises to crescendos of enthusiasm and falls to a conspiratorial mock-whisper as she leads visitors through the photographs, letters and everyday objects that testify to the revolutionary's life.

In tones of awe, she points out photographs of Lenin's father, said to have been a highly competent civil servant who was nearly barred from government work because of his peasant origins; and of his brother, who was executed as a terrorist.

So all-enveloping is her curator's passion that she hardly seems to have taken in the events of the past few days, or the prospect that her premises, like the main Lenin museum in Moscow, to whom she reports, will now be sequestered by the non-communist state. But there is a palpable anxiety that all her work will go to waste.

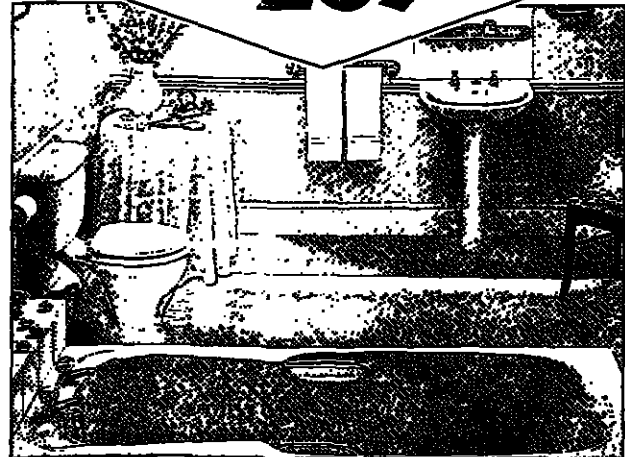
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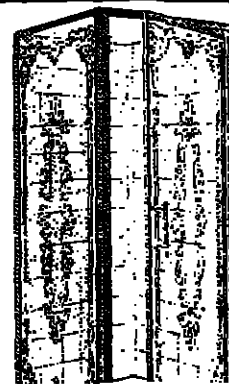
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NOW £599.99

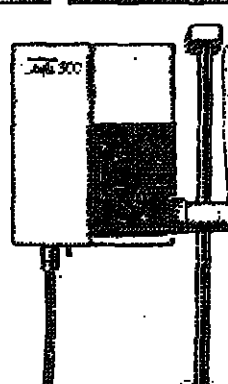


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هكذا امت الأصل

Historic fudge makes Baltic recognition easy for Britain



Eden: urged recognition of 1941 Soviet borders

AS GERMANY leads the West in recognising the Baltic republics, other European countries are watching nervously to see whether the move will set a dangerous precedent for their own breakaway peoples. The Slovenes and Croats certainly hope that their independence will soon be formally acknowledged; even the Slovaks are studying the Baltic case with interest.

When Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, travels to the Baltic republics early next week, he will make plain that Britain has never formally recognised the incorporation into the Soviet Union of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

For decades this has been a technical distinction. Now, however, this historical

fudge has made it relatively simple to recognise the Baltic republics: there is no frontal challenge to the Soviet Union and no act of aggression towards the Kremlin. By contrast, recognising Croatia and Slovenia still presents a diplomatic puzzle. The Slovenes in particular showed during their eight-day war earlier this summer that they had passed the most basic test of statehood: the ability to defend their sovereignty.

But supporting Slovenia and Croatia not only changes the military dynamics, it also implicitly withdraws recognition from federal Yugoslavia. Here, then, is the crucial difference, for there is no contradiction at all in Britain simultaneously recognising the Baltic republics and the Soviet Union. Western states

Western policy on Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia has tried to maintain moral positions despite dealings with an amoral Stalin, Roger Boyes writes

as well as countries from Central Europe are lining up to recognise the Baltic republics. Most will wait until the Soviet Union, rather than just Russia, takes the diplomatic plunge. But, as Czesław Olędzki, a Lithuanian deputy, told Polish radio, the independence campaign is not yet over. "There's still a long way to go, we haven't achieved our freedom yet."

That caution is informed by history, which shows that the Baltic republics need more than a few Western ambassadors to retain their

independence. Before the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact the Soviet Union had given several pledges to the Baltic states. There were peace and good-neighbour treaties in 1919-20 between Moscow and each of them. In 1929 Estonia, Latvia, Poland and the Soviet Union signed the Litvinov protocol renouncing war and committing themselves to peaceful resolution of conflicts. There were even more explicit non-aggression treaties in 1926 and 1932, all broken by the secret deal between Nazi Germany and Moscow.

When the German invasion of the Soviet Union forced Stalin to come to terms with the Allies, he insisted that they should recognise the Soviet Union's 1941 frontiers, including the Baltics. Anthony Eden, then foreign secretary, urged Churchill to comply, saying: "It is in our interest too that they (the Soviet Union) should be in a strong position in the Baltic." In the event the treaty between Britain and the Soviet Union signed in May 1942 gave no such undertaking. Instead both Britain and America were content to maintain recognition of the Baltic republics as *de jure* separate entities without pressing the matter.

Lord Halifax reported the line taken by President Roosevelt on March 9, 1942:

"With regard to the Baltic states, Roosevelt admitted that, were the area to be reoccupied by a victorious Red Army, neither Britain nor the United States could or would do anything about this. Why then should Stalin worry?"

Why indeed? The impasse on the Baltics has persisted as a policy until this week. There was never any question, for example, that the West would give, or accelerate, diplomatic recognition of Lithuania even after last January's attack on Vilnius by Soviet forces.

Western policy was frozen in a wartime cast that tried to hang on to some moral positions (no formal acknowledgement of territory gained by force) while dealing with the amoral leader of the Soviet Union.



Roosevelt: no action if the Red Army moved in

RUSSIA AND THE UKRAINE

Delegates fly to Kiev to defuse border tension

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

RUSSIAN and Soviet delegates yesterday flew to Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, to try to calm fears of Russian imperialism and to curb a wave of regional nationalism that is threatening to spark off border disputes and ethnic conflicts.

Tension between Russia and the Ukraine, which opted last weekend for full independence subject to a referendum on December 1, increased sharply after Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, said he reserved the right to review the federation's borders with

republics that chose to leave the Soviet Union.

Although Russia has made clear it has no territorial claims on the Baltic republics, Pavel Voshchanov, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, issued a warning that disputes could arise over the Donbas coal region and the Crimean peninsula, which was given to the Ukraine by Khrushchev in 1954. Conflicts may also take place over northern Kazakhstan in Central Asia where Russians account for half the urban population. Kiev responded with a statement

noting that the Ukraine was "not named among republics whose territorial problems the Russian president considers as finally solved". Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian leader, said that "territorial claims are very dangerous and can end with great complications for people".

The Russian delegation to Kiev was led by Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian vice-president. The Soviet parliament immediately sent a team of its own in what was seen as an attempt by the discredited central Soviet body to reassert its authority.

Ivan Laptev, the deputy speaker of the Soviet parliament, announced the decision, but did not give any reasons. However, Tass noted that relations between Moscow and Kiev had "deteriorated" and said it would "take part in negotiations on the border problem between the Ukraine and Russia".

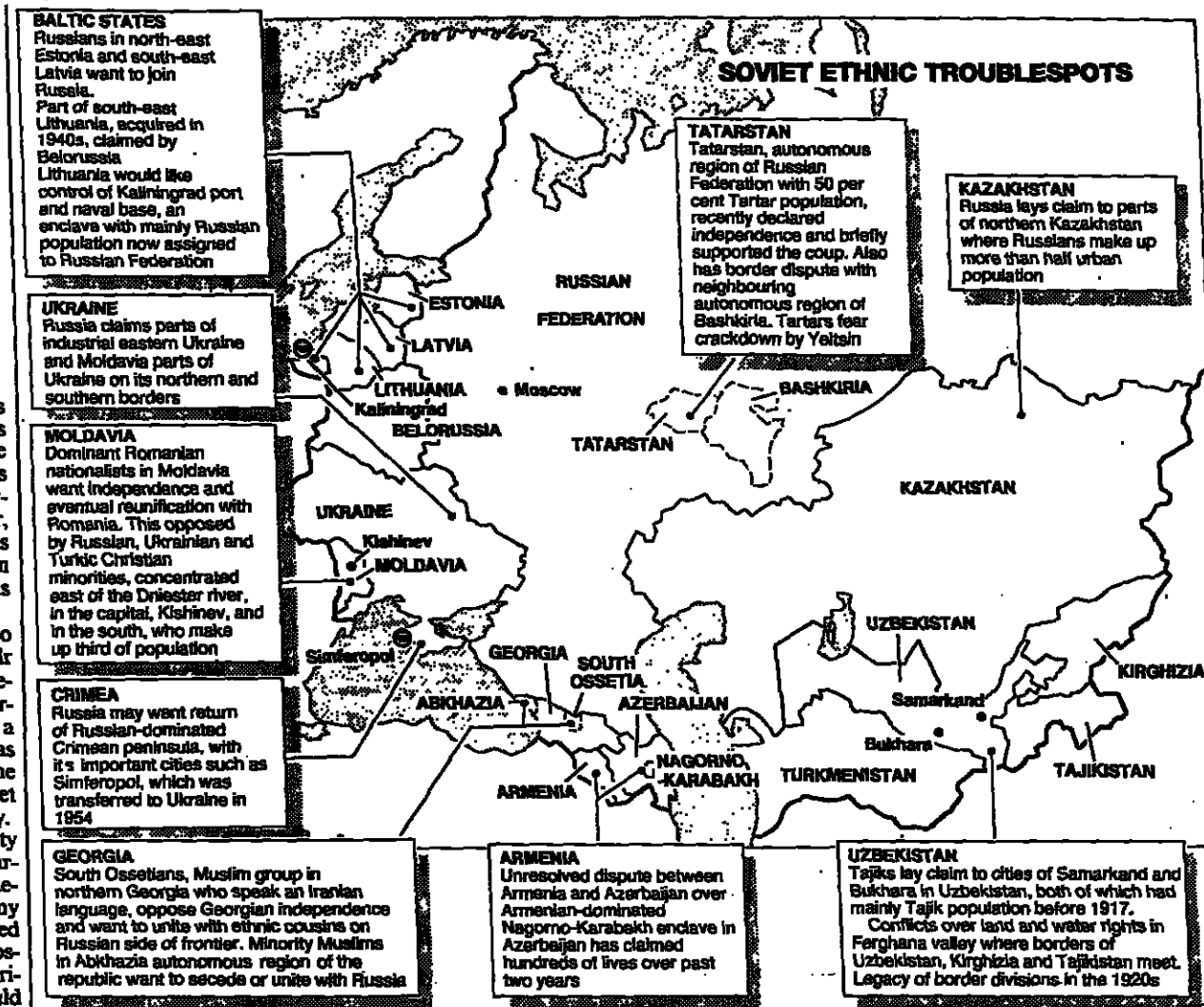
Ukrainian leaders said yesterday that any border issues should be discussed under the terms of a treaty signed by Mr Kravchuk and Mr Yeltsin last November. They agreed to recognise and respect each other's territorial integrity "within the existing borders of the Soviet Union".

The central government is also concerned about nuclear weapons believed to be deployed in the Ukraine. The Ukraine has announced plans to become a "nuclear-free state" and to place all military units on its soil under the control of its parliament. Tass yesterday quoted Mr Kravchuk as saying: "This has been only a political decision for the present."

There seemed little chance that the Ukraine would respond to President Gorbachev's appeal for an early signing of the Union Treaty, his blueprint for a new federal structure. Mr Kravchuk has said that any decision will be postponed until after the December referendum.

In another development, the Romanian parliament called for international recognition of Moldavia whose parliament adopted a proclamation of independence on Tuesday. The parliament called for more co-operation between Moldavia and Romania which were "both descendants from the single historical tree of the Romanian people".

Leading article, page 17



Map men go back to drawing board

Washington — Mapmakers in America are delaying publication of new atlases while there is uncertainty over the future shape of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Redrawing the Soviet Union would be the biggest change to the world map since African colonies achieved independence in large numbers in the 1960s.

Rand McNally, which calls itself the world's largest commercial mapmaker, is holding off publication of some maps. "We have gone into smaller printings than might otherwise have been the case" for some items, said a spokesman.

Robert Garver, the National Geographic Society's chief cartographer, said they were "seriously considering what would be the appropriate time" to publish a new map. (Reuters)

Diplomats vote

Moscow — President Gorbachev is to meet Eduard Shevardnadze, his former foreign minister, but it is not known whether he will be asked to return to his old job. Mr Shevardnadze has said he does not want to return to the foreign ministry, but 3,500 Soviet diplomats have voted to invite him back. (AP)

Lenin to move

Berlin — Gavril Popov, the radical mayor of Moscow, said during a one-day visit to Berlin that the body of Lenin, the founder of Soviet communism, would be removed "sooner or later" from its display tomb in Red Square and be buried next to his mother, as Lenin had requested. (AP)

British offer

London — Britain is willing to discuss compensation claims by the Baltic republics for gold worth £96 million that was deposited in Britain before the second world war but was sold by the Wilson government in 1968, the Foreign Office said. The gold was sold to compensate British holders of Baltic bonds and assets.

Closed book

Stanford, California — This year's 25th anniversary edition of the *Yearbook on International Communist Affairs* will be the last. Margit Grigory, managing editor of the volume, published at Stanford university, said: "We recognize the time has come to put the yearbook quietly away. It's no longer needed." (AP)

Nuclear risk

Paris — The Soviet turmoil poses a danger of nuclear proliferation, because gangsters might try to steal and sell nuclear weapons, Francois Heisbourg, director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, says. Independent republics might also demand control over weapons on their territory. (Reuters)

Union split

Paris — Muscovites are evenly split over whether the Soviet Union should be maintained or its 15 republics should become independent, according to a French BVA opinion poll carried out in two surveys after the failure of the coup. About 1,200 people were interviewed. (Reuters)

New Tass chief

Moscow — President Gorbachev's chief spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, has been appointed head of the Soviet news agency Tass, the Interfax news agency reported. President Gorbachev sacked Lev Spiridonov, the previous head of the news agency, over Tass's role in the failed coup. (Reuters)

POLAND

Walesa urged to change tactics

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Walesa, announcing for the first time that he had started to mobilise the Polish army when he heard of the Moscow coup, said yesterday that the Soviet turmoil still held dangers for Central and Eastern Europe.

Reflecting this concern, the Polish leader has plainly had a hand in the removal of the Soviet ambassador to Poland, Yuri Kashlev. Although the official portraits of President Gorbachev stayed on the embassy walls throughout the three days of the coup, Mr Kashlev is widely suspected in Poland of having been on the plotters' side. His removal yesterday came after "confidential notes were exchanged between Warsaw and Moscow", President Walesa told reporters before beginning another round of talks.

His advisers are urging him to make a big switch in Poland's eastern policy, away from Mr Gorbachev and the weakened centre and towards Russia and the Ukraine. Poland was the first post-communist country this week to recognise Lithuania, and officials are to go to Vilnius next week to start setting up an embassy.

But the president himself appears to be more cautious. His view is that the peril of a hardline restoration has been replaced by the unpredictability of friction between the republics. Arguments, even fighting, over internal borders

in the Soviet Union could easily spill into Poland. There are Belorussian and Ukrainian minorities in Poland, and Polish minorities in Lithuania, Belorussia and the Ukraine.

Poland's security is entangled with the internal difficulties of the Soviet Union. That is the main reason Warsaw has been urging the removal of Mr Kashlev. He appears to have been unhelpful in the complex negotiations to speed up the withdrawal of the 45,000 Soviet troops from Polish territory. The Poles, while privately recognising that their aim of a total withdrawal by the end of the year is unrealistic, want a substantial number of the soldiers to leave the country. There is a real risk that the troops will become an important issue in the parliamentary election campaign this October and add tension to Polish-Soviet relations.

Over the past few months of largely fruitless talks, the Soviet foreign ministry seems to have made common cause with the army — in the form of General Viktor Dubinin, commander of the northern army group — in keeping the troops in place.

The Poles hope that by pressing for Mr Kashlev's return to Moscow they can at least change the headline image of Poland in the eyes of the Moscow establishment.

THE BALTICS

Lithuania to discuss KGB pullout

From REUTERS IN VILNIUS

A SENIOR KGB official was due to arrive in Lithuania yesterday to discuss with President Landsbergis the withdrawal of Soviet security police from the Baltic republic, a Lithuanian parliamentary spokesman said.

The republic's parliament demanded on Tuesday that all Soviet forces be withdrawn from its territory. The Lithuanian government now controls KGB headquarters in

central Vilnius after the KGB staff left the building on Saturday although armed guards stayed behind.

The Soviet commander of the Baltic military district, Lieutenant-General Vyacheslav Mironov, was also due to meet President Landsbergis to discuss the position of the Soviet Interior Ministry forces and the question of military support for last week's failed coup. The troops, known as

"black berets", are blamed by the Lithuanian government for a number of violent incidents including attacks on border posts. They quit their barracks in Vilnius on Saturday and left in an armoured column for an army base near by.

In a meeting with Juozas Matonis, Lithuania's deputy interior minister, the senior Soviet interior ministry official asked for the troops to be

granted an amnesty and be allowed to go home. Mr Matonis said that the government had guaranteed there would be a full investigation of incidents in which the troops were involved. If members of the unit made a declaration to the Lithuanian parliament apologising and acknowledging their guilt, deputies might decide to grant an amnesty, he added.

Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the new Soviet defence minister, has agreed in principle to President Landsbergis's request that all 10,000 Lithuanian conscripts and 2,000 officers could leave the army, although details have still to be worked out.

Denmark's ambassador to the three Baltic republics, Otto Borch, was due in Vilnius yesterday and Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, is expected here today, a foreign ministry official said. Steys Lozonitis, Lithuania's chief diplomat in Washington, said yesterday that his government was in no hurry to apply for United Nations membership since its secretary-general was unfriendly. However, an application could be made over the next few months.

The Lithuanian legion, set up in Washington in the early 1920s, continued to function after the annexation.



Sensing victory: Algirdas Sandaras, Lennart Meri and Janis Jurkane, the foreign ministers of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, show their approval in Bonn after Germany recognised the Baltic republics and re-established diplomatic ties with them. 52 years after Nazi Germany gave Stalin a free hand to annex the Baltic states.

"From our point of view, it is only today that the last consequences of the second world war have been done away with," Mr Meri said (AP reports). Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said: "The Baltic republics, forcibly annexed after the Hitler-Stalin pact, are winning back their freedom and independence."

JAPAN

Kaifu seizes opportunity to push for peace deal over islands

ROSHIKI Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, told President Gorbachev in a letter on Tuesday that the time is now ripe for Japan and the Soviet Union to normalise relations, the Kyodo news agency reported.

Theoretically, the two nations are still at war, as Tokyo has refused to sign a peace treaty ending the second world war until Moscow returns the four disputed Kurile islands off the northern Japanese coast, which were seized by Stalin in 1945. But hopes were raised yesterday in Tokyo by the news that Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian republic, which encompasses the disputed islands, might be interested in striking a deal with Japan.

The territorial issue has proved the most obstructive stumbling block on the path

Moscow changes raise Tokyo hopes that an old dispute can end, business can expand and raw materials be secured, Joanna Pitman reports

to political and economic harmony. The Japanese government said yesterday that it has no plans to increase the \$100 million (£59.5 million) already pledged in emergency food and medical aid and is maintaining its long-standing offer of large-scale aid and investment contingent on the completion of a peace treaty.

While politicians repeat their "no islands, no investment" mantra, Japanese businessmen have been allowed to invest quietly in the Soviet Union. Jun Ishii, an employee of the Mitsui and Co trading firm, had made

100 business trips to the Soviet Union within a year before succumbing to *karoshi*, death from overwork, a year ago. Mr Ishii's case has focused attention on the extent of unofficial Japanese business with the Soviet Union.

Businessmen have greeted news of the failed coup and of Mr Yeltsin's ascendancy with loudest approval. "Thanks to the victory of Mr Yeltsin and others, we now have a foundation suitable for Western economic aid... The Japanese government should begin full-scale economic co-

operation with the Soviet Union," said Naohiko Kumagai, president of Mitsui and Co last week.

"The Soviet Union holds great possibilities for business due to its natural resources and large market. But without serious Western aid, and I mean Japanese aid, it will be difficult for private companies to proceed with major projects," he added.

Virtually bereft of natural resources itself, Japan is focusing on huge reserves of oil, natural gas, coal and other raw materials in the Soviet Far East. The Yakut district of Siberia alone has confirmed natural gas reserves of 800 billion cubic metres, the largest known deposit in Asia. Tokyo businessmen are proposing a joint Japanese-Soviet development.

On June 27, Hisashi



Owada, the deputy foreign minister, said that he would prepare a peace treaty between the two nations, including provisions for Japanese technical assistance to convert Soviet arms production facilities to civilian uses. On Tuesday, the international trade and industry ministry announced that it

would consider expanding technical assistance to the Soviet Union in response to the dissolution of the Communist party and would lift a freeze on underwriting insurance for Japanese investment in the Soviet Union.

The official Japanese line still precludes aid without a peace treaty and firm commitments on market liberalisations. As always, the pace at which Japanese aid is forthcoming will be carefully pegged to the rate at which its industrial giants wish to engage in Soviet business. There are many precedents in Asia showing such a pattern.

Japanese annual overseas development aid to Indonesia, for example, increased from \$197 million in 1975 to \$1,145 million in 1989 while direct investment increased from less than \$400 million to

\$1,105 million over the same period. Japan today receives about one-third of Indonesia's crude oil exports and has 1,873 companies operating there, many of them labour-intensive, in order to resolve its own dire labour shortage.

Once Japanese development aid to the Soviet Union begins in earnest, hundreds of Japanese companies will be poised to open up and expand operations there. Toyota Motor has set up a network of service stations in anticipation of the day when Toyota cars begin to roll on Soviet soil in their hundreds of thousands. Matsushita Electric plans to assemble 10,000 video cameras annually at a converted military arms factory near Moscow, and Kawasaki Steel has begun building a steel sheet manufacturing plant nearby.

Tanks break truce as Croats back peace bid

FROM TIM JUDAH IN VUKOVAR AND PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE besieged Croatian town of Vukovar came under fire again yesterday, despite a renewed ceasefire call by the army leadership and the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman. The town reverberated to mortar explosions and tank and artillery fire.

The latest ceasefire breach came as Mr Tudjman held talks in Paris with President Mitterrand, during which he accepted a proposal that the European Community should launch a final attempt to prevent full-scale civil war. Speaking after his talks with the French President, Mr Tudjman said Croatia had always supported the idea of "a European intervention" and that any worsening of the conflict between his forces and Serbian militias constituted "a danger for the whole of Europe".

For his part, M. Mitterrand reaffirmed that France had no objection to the "legitimate aspirations" of the people of Yugoslavia, provided that peaceful methods were employed to achieve such aims. Presidential sources said later that the meeting had taken place at Mr Tudjman's urgent request and that the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, would arrive in Paris for discussions before the end of this week.

In Vukovar yesterday, residents said that some shelling was coming from behind a wood on the Serbian side of the Danube. They also said that another part of the barrage came from the rebel Serb stronghold of Borovo Selo, three miles to the northwest.

Croatian national guardsmen said they had disabled tanks in the neighbouring village of Borovo Naselje but that the army had hauled them away. While some mortars fell on Vukovar, a fiercer attack was launched on Borovo Naselje.

Mirko Kalenic, a Vukovar resident, carefully unwrapped a cloth to reveal a human foot. "Three people were killed and two wounded. There are two more missing but we've only found parts so far," he said. Mr Kalenic was a member of the team digging through the rubble of Vukovar's municipal museum which was hit in an air raid on Monday. Half of the 18th-century mansion was demolished.

When the Yugoslav air force launched its attack, about 100 Croatian national guardsmen were being billeted in the museum. However, most of them were out in the fields around the town when the raid came.

The streets of Vukovar were practically deserted yesterday, as most people had either fled or were hiding in their cellars and shelters. Several houses

and shops have received direct hits and scores more have been damaged.

Sheltering in her cellar with her neighbours, Jelica Smolic, aged 51, said: "They shot at us like monkeys... We've been down here for three days and nights." With air raid sirens wailing, an elderly woman broke down in tears and another said: "Don't go back out, they are coming again." This time it was a false alarm.

"The politicians are guilty not the little people," said Mrs Smolic. "You mean the politicians in Belgrade?" asked an old man. "All of them," she retorted.

At the end of the street was a burnt-out car which had been hit by a shell on Sunday. Three people were killed in the incident. Near by, Mirjana Miletic, aged 57, broke down as she came to collect supplies from the remains of her house, part of which was reduced to rubble by a shell on Monday morning. Her family pictures still hung on the wall but their glass was shattered. "I was born here, I worked here, I'm retired and I want to live in Croatia," Mrs Miletic said.

The shells of the Yugoslav army and Serb militiamen are indiscriminate. Mrs Miletic is a Serb. During the attack she had been sheltering at Mrs Smolic's house.

As another shell exploded, Mrs Smolic, a Croat, comforted her friend: "I thought there was going to be a ceasefire," she said with a wry laugh. "I did the washing,



hung it out to dry and look what's happening." Mrs Miletic said: "I just want peace. I don't care what sort of government it is."

Cars packed with national guardsmen and police raced through Vukovar's virtually empty streets making victory signs to passers-by. There were craters in several roads including one outside the hospital. Another mortar had landed in the hospital courtyard on Sunday, wounding two doctors and a technician.

"Look at this," said Dr Vesna Bosanac, the hospital director, holding out a razor-sharp four-inch piece of shrapnel. "We took it out of the arm of a 12-year-old girl." Dr Bosanac said that since the battle of Vukovar began on Sunday "we know of 12 deaths and 76 wounded". She said that figure included both civilians and men under arms.



Helping hand: a passenger being given emergency treatment after being lifted out of the wreckage of the subway train which crashed yesterday at Union Square station in New York. Six people were killed and 200 were injured

Train crash driver tested for drugs

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE driver of a New York subway train which jumped the tracks underneath Manhattan, killing at least six people and injuring more than 200, is being tested for drugs after a phial which may have contained the cocaine derivative "crack" was found in the driver's cab.

A television report said the driver, who had apparently fled after the crash, was found hours later as he approached his home miles from the crash scene. The ten-carriage train was coming into the Union Square station shortly after midnight local time when the first five carriages derailed as it switched from express tracks to local tracks.

The front carriage struck a vertical column in the underground tunnel and was sliced in half, leaving the tunnel filled with twisted metal and trapped, dazed and dead passengers, police said. Dozens of people were led to the safety of the street.

Radio reports said the driver, Robert Ray, aged 38, was being questioned by police about drug use. Mr Gray had worked for the transit authority since 1981 and had been driving underground trains for three years. Drug tests after any accident are routine, a union official said. David Dinkins, New York's mayor, said at a press conference more than three hours after the crash that there were five confirmed deaths and that an investigation into the cause had started. Officials said a sixth passenger had died

in hospital. The mayor said: "It's a mess of twisted metal down there. I have never seen anything like this."

Dazed victims asked police if all their limbs were still there. Noel Firth, a subway police officer said, adding that some of the people brought out had to be cut away from twisted metal. Albert Webb, a passenger aged 30, said the train "was going so fast, the next thing you know it was 'boom'." He said he saw a baby hurled from its mother's arms.

"It was like an explosion," said Jo Ricketts, another passenger, who had bloody knees and a torn dress. She said that some people from another carriage got thrown into her carriage. "There was a lot of smoke. The car was just shredded. There were wires hanging down. People were screaming."

Deputy Fire Commissioner Tom Kelly said the train looked like "a collapsed telescope". The first carriage of the train was cut in half and the back was shredded. Some victims were lifted out of the tunnel on stretchers. Some of the injured were treated at the station but others were put in buses and taken to hospitals.

The worst accident on New York subways was on November 1, 1918. At least 97 people were killed. The second worst was a derailment on August 27, 1928, when 16 passengers were killed and more than 100 were injured when a 10-carriage train crashed at Times Square.

Canada sets up Indian enquiry

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

BRIAN Mulroney, the prime minister of Canada, has established a royal commission on aboriginal affairs and given it a broad mandate to find ways to eliminate what he called centuries of injustice in the treatment of Canada's 1.25 million native people.

The seven-member commission will be jointly headed by Georges Erasmus, former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Canada's leading Indian group, and René Dussault, a judge of the Quebec court of appeal. The tribunal will hold hearings across the country in what is likely to become the most definitive inquiry into native problems in Canadian history.

The commission's effectively open-ended terms of reference range from issues of native self-government to social problems, such as poverty, unemployment, health care, alcohol and substance abuse, and sub-standard housing, which affect aboriginal people. Mr Mulroney said in announcing the membership of the commission on Tuesday that its primary objective would be "to deal with literally centuries of injustice".

He told reporters in Kelowna, British Columbia, where he was attending a meeting of the cabinet committee on planning and priorities: "Anybody who has ever walked across an Indian reservation will recognise that these are Third World conditions that we would deplore anywhere else." The tribunal could easily take a year or

more to submit its findings and recommendations. Mr Mulroney set no deadlines, saying only that it should report to the government with "all reasonable dispatch".

Two events in the past year or so have forced native issues to near the top of Canada's political agenda. The first was the extraordinary exploit of Elijah Harper, a Cree Indian member of the Manitoba legislature, in single-handedly preventing the ratification of the Meech Lake constitutional accord by the Manitoba House. His action helped to kill the accord, designed to end French-speaking Quebec's constitutional isolation.

The other event was last year's summer-long armed confrontation between Mohawk Indians and Canadian security forces over a relatively obscure land claim at an Indian reserve near Montreal.



Harper: helped to kill constitutional accord

Cambodia peace talks collapse

FROM DENIS GRAY IN PHNOM PENH, THAILAND

TALKS to end the 12-year-old war in Cambodia broke down yesterday as the four factions failed to compromise on military demobilisation, future elections and human rights, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said.

Although the meeting ends today, Prince Norodom reported that the parties would leave the conference table without having fashioned a comprehensive peace package. "I see now I was wrong to be so optimistic," he said, adding that further meetings would be needed in the quest for peace.

Arrayed against each other are the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh and three allied guerrilla groups: the Khmer Rouge, followers of Prince Norodom, and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. Prince Norodom said the Khmer Rouge objected to excluding Phnom Penh's special "A-3" police force from a formula for disarmament agreed on Tuesday. There was also disagreement about the shape of elections and the wording of a statement on human rights.

The breakdown in talks could jeopardise ceasefire that took effect in June. Violations have been reported by all sides and violence by bandits and renegade soldiers is on the increase.

Prince Norodom said the interim Supreme National Council would convene next month in New York, and in Thailand during October, before a scheduled November session in Phnom Penh. "The Paris conference cannot be reconvened in the near future since the Cambodian factions are not capable of solving everything," he said. The conference is the key international forum for resolving the Cambodian issue and where the warring sides will have to sign the final peace pact.

Any compromise peace pact was further jeopardised because the agreements already reached strayed from a plan drafted by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Prince Norodom said earlier yesterday the United States and Britain might reject the results of the Phnom Penh meeting. "I have doubts about their flexibility," he said. He called China, France and the Soviet Union "liberals" who would go along with changes in the plan. The Foreign Office said that Britain remained committed to a comprehensive political settlement as "the only way in which lasting peace and stability can be restored to Cambodia".

Today the factions begin two days of talks with Richard Solomon, the US assistant secretary of state, and other representatives of the security council's permanent members. Prince Norodom said the Cambodians were also working with Rafeedun Ahmed, the UN special envoy on Cambodia. (AP)

UN chief calls for Africa debt relief

London — Africa will sink deeper into "an unrelenting crisis of tragic proportions" unless world leaders agree to cancel its debts and substantially increase international efforts to revive its economy, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general, said in a report yesterday. (Tim Jones writes.)

He said the situation in Africa represented "the greatest development challenge of our time". The target, he said, must be the doubling by the year 2015 of the continent's current per capita income. Even that would provide the people of sub-Saharan Africa with an annual income of only \$700 (£415).

Senior Pérez de Cuellar's report, which comes after the conclusion of the UN Africa recovery programme study, says only a worldwide effort aimed at the structural transformation of African economies can eliminate the poverty which grips most of the continent's people. Africa's debt, his report reveals, more than doubled from \$203 billion in 1986 to \$271 billion in 1990.

Briton jailed

Peking — A court in Shanghai has sentenced Mark Baber, a British businessman aged 28, to four years in prison for trying to smuggle nearly 16lb of marijuana out of China, a British diplomat said. Mr Baber, who was also fined 40,000 yuan (\$4,400), was considering whether to appeal. (AP)

Crash kills 53

Istanbul — Only one person survived when a coach carrying 54 people drove over a 50ft precipice in the mountainous region around Dogubayazir, near the Iranian border, eastern Turkey. Many of the passengers were believed to be Muslim pilgrims.

Togo U-turn

Lomé — Togolese radio has said that President Eyadéma will attend the closing ceremony of the West African states' national conference to introduce democracy. The military leader had tried to stop it, claiming allegations that he was plotting to assassinate opposition leaders were baseless. (Reuters)

Peru emergency

Lima — A state of emergency aimed at combating Shining Path rebels has been expanded to within 30 miles of the city of Cuzco, once capital of the Incas empire and now Peru's main tourist site. The extension is the third this year, and the state of emergency now affects more than half the population. (AP)

Bakhtiar charge

Paris — Ali Vakil Rad, an Iranian extradited from Switzerland on Tuesday, has been charged before a French judge with the murder of Shapur Bakhtiar, the last Iranian prime minister under the shah, and his secretary on August 6. Mr Rad was among the last three visitors received by Mr Bakhtiar. (Reuters)

Penalty restored

Port Moresby — The parliament of Papua New Guinea has voted by 48 votes to 19 to reintroduce discretionary use of the death penalty for violent crimes such as murder and rape. The penalty was abolished for all crimes except treason after the country declared independence from Australia in 1975. (Reuters)

Out of service

Seoul — South Korean police have arrested warrants for two doctors accused of surgically altering the knees of more than 30 athletes to help them dodge compulsory military service. Police said the surgeons allegedly told the athletes that the effects of surgery would wear off about a month. (Reuters)

Markov ruling

Sofia — The Bulgarian supreme court has withdrawn a warrant for the arrest of General Vlado Todorov in connection with investigations into the murder in London in 1978 of the Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov. This could impede his extradition from the Soviet Union where he sought refuge. (AP)

Fat of the land

Canberra — More than a quarter of Australian adults fail to fit their traditional bronzed, athletic image. A nationwide survey classified 33 per cent of men as obese and 24 per cent of women as overweight. The highest proportion of fat people were in the 45 to 64 age group. (Reuters)

Paris team arrives to fetch Aoun

By ALI JABER IN BEIRUT AND PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A FRENCH delegation arrived in Beirut yesterday to ease the departure from Lebanon of General Michel Aoun, the Christian army chief who has been taking refuge in the French embassy. The general, who led a two-year mutiny against the government here, is to take up political asylum in France.

The delegation, headed by Patrick Le Clerk, chief of the French foreign ministry's Middle East section, arrived in Beirut on board a private aircraft. Its members met Omar Karame, the Lebanese prime minister, and Fares Boueiz, the foreign minister, and was to dine with President Hrawi last night.

At this meeting the president was expected to sign General Aoun's parole. The general and Brigadier Issam Abu Jamra and Brigadier Edgar Maalouf, close aides who have been in the embassy with him, would then have only 48 hours to leave the country. Beirut has previously insisted that the general should stand trial in Lebanon.

The decision by Lebanon to allow General Aoun to leave has been received with understandable pleasure by the French government. The prospect of his remaining indefinitely in the Beirut embassy was decidedly unwelcome.



Spreading the word: Christopher O'Bryen, aged ten, using a box to reach the microphone as he gives a sermon at Macedonia Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia. He says that a year ago he saw God talking to him in a dream, and he has been preaching ever since

Rabbi sees messianic pattern in chaos

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN Kfar Habad, ISRAEL

WHEN hardliners seized power in Moscow last week members of this community of ultra-Orthodox Jews outside Tel Aviv nodded sagely to one another and calmly awaited the collapse of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet empire.

There are no acclaimed Kremlinologists in the village, but there is an unwavering belief that communism, along with all other aspects of totalitarianism, are being rapidly swept aside in advance of a "new world order". A recent

advertisement in the Jerusalem Post, which has been reproduced throughout the Israeli and American press, maintains that the destruction of the Iron Curtain, the defeat of Iraq, the airlift of Ethiopian Jews and the other big events of this year are not coincidental but part of a well-orchestrated plan to pave the way for Man's redemption and the imminent arrival of the Messiah.

The campaign to prepare for the Messiah's arrival has been orchestrated by the leader of

the Lubavitch sect, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, aged 89, who is idolised by his followers as the greatest contemporary Jewish leader but mistrusted by his rivals in the ultra-Orthodox community for the strong personality cult he has managed to create and his populist approach to Judaism.

Rabbi Menachem Brod, Kfar Habad's spokesman, who like many of the rabbi's followers puts great store in his leader's prophetic abilities, said: "When the Gulf war

broke out he predicted that Israel would be saved and it was. When the coup happened in Moscow he told our 300 volunteers there to stay on and they were safe."

"All he is saying is stop, look around the world and think. What happened this year is not a coincidence, everything is by divine providence."

Most Orthodox Jews outside the Habad community greet the messianic movement with suspicion and fear, not least because Rabbi Schneerson's followers make no secret of their belief that he is the man most likely to be the Messiah.

"He is a potential candidate. I see many of the qualities in him," said Yossi Raichik, Habad's director of humanitarian relief. In particular, he cited his rabbi's lineage to King David and his spiritual and leadership qualities.

Although Jewish history is dotted with scores of accounts of messianic movements, the latest campaign has worried Jewish leaders, particularly since the Habad movement is rapidly expanding and already boasts 100,000 members around the world, as well as hundreds of thousands of sympathisers. Rabbi David Hartman, a prominent Orthodox philosopher, has described Habad's American-style recruitment and campaigning methods as "cheap and vulgar", and he suggests that Jews should leave messianism to God.

Hangman seeks public stage

FROM SARA EL-GAMMAL IN CAIRO

HELMI Sultan has hanged 240 men and women during his 20 years as Egypt's state executioner and he believes that criminals should be executed in public and the hangings televised as a deterrent to would-be law-breakers.

"If a person has any intention (to commit a crime), he will go back on it. The execution is a terrible event and I want people to see it," said Mr Sultan, aged 53, who is better known as "Ashmawi", after Egypt's first hangman. "When they see this situation, they will not want to experience it, ever," he said at one of central Cairo's prisons, where 36 people are awaiting execution.

On execution days, a black flag hangs on the prison door. Executions are always carried

out at 8am. Dressed in black and wearing a black beret, Mr Sultan, a tall, well-built man, who was appointed assistant executioner from among 17 candidates in 1968 and state hangman in 1971, escorts the condemned to the gallows after the prison director reads out the sentence and a preacher recites verses from the Koran or the Bible.

The prisoner is asked if he or she has a last wish — a cigarette, a sweet, time to pray. Then Mr Sultan pinions the prisoner's arms and legs with leather straps, places a black hood over their face and places a noose around their neck. He pulls a lever and the condemned person drops through a trapdoor. Mr Sultan says he does not

enjoy his work, but his conscience is clear. "What makes me feel psychologically good is when I am putting the rope around the convict's neck. I hear him muttering his last words: 'Forgive me God. Forgive me God.' These words indicate he is guilty."

Cairo's prisons house 77 people sentenced to death for murder, armed assault, robbery resulting in murder, rape and drug smuggling. Four foreigners convicted of drug smuggling — as Israeli, a Sri Lankan, a Lebanese and a Sudanese — hope that President Mubarak will not sign their death warrants. Mr Sultan hanged Egypt's first convicted foreign drug smuggler — a Pakistani — two years ago. (Reuters)

Functional food — elixir or simply a diet of hype?

Victoria McKee
looks at the
controversy over a
booming market
in 'nutraceuticals'

Might an apple a day "keep the doctor away"? Do oat bran cereals lower cholesterol? Can a herbal beverage enhance brainpower, or a chewing gum strengthen teeth?

Welcome to the brave new world of "functional" or "smart" food and "psychoactive" drinks, also known as "nutraceuticals" because they fall into a category somewhere between food, dietary supplements, and drugs.

In Britain the 1980s were the age of food that is not bad for us: reduced-fat crisps, sausages and spreads, decaffeinated coffee and low-calorie drinks. Now, some manufacturers are tempting us with foods that claim to be good for us, aiding digestion, improving the immune system, increasing cognitive abilities or boosting sporting or sexual performance.

In the 1990s the fastest growing sector of the American food market — expected to be worth \$7.5 billion this year, according to a survey by the American food industry consultants Technology Catalysts — comprises foods that are said to put something back rather than taking something away. This includes "isotonic" sports drinks, and "health elixirs" purporting to contain amino acids that stimulate the brain and improve the memory.

"Functional foods are normal foods, consumed as part of a regular diet, with naturally occurring ingredients," says "Functional Foods: A new global added value market" from the PA Consulting Group, a London consultancy group with food industry clients, which set out to discover what European manufacturers could learn from the phenomenon in Japan, where it originated.

Products on the market there include a calcium-enriched chewing gum (with cinnamon to aid the digestion), sports drinks providing electrolytes, iron and vitamins, salad dressings with Omega 3 fatty acids, believed to lower cholesterol, and drinks and biscuits containing oligosaccharides "which stimulate the growth of healthy bacteria in the digestive tract and, it is thought, could be anti-carcinogenic", says David Potter of PA.

"Functional foods is a marketing term, not a technical one," says Mr Potter. But in addition to old familiar products such as porridge oats repackaged in functional clothing, there is a new generation



of "designer" functional foods.

Gusto is a guarana-containing pick-me-up. It contains two kinds of ginseng which, its makers, Gusto Foods, claims "has been shown to strengthen the body's ability to resist illness, degeneration and fatigue", and a blend of herbs called Mind Peak which "has become a runaway success with brokers and traders on Wall Street, for its ability to keep them awake and as an aid to concentration".

Young people are the special targets for supposedly mind-expanding "psychoactive" drinks. Adrian Flack of Life Force Trading, the importer of Choline Cooler and Fast Blast, also owns The Brain Club, a nightclub in London's Wardour Street, where these herbal drink powders are combined with fruit juices or mixed into cocktails that provide what he likes to think of as "a natural high".

"Choline Cooler is a memory improver that works because it provides the brain with the nutrients it needs to work at peak efficiency," he says. "Fast Blast gives a fast quicker dose of noradrenaline, an excitatory drug, so you want to get up and dance. That's why it's been targeted at pubs and clubs. One of the good by-products is that people are not drinking as much alcohol and

not taking drugs."

But what is the distinction between so-called "smart drugs" and "smart nutrients" (as Mr Flack calls them) like these? "Lapacho is the bark of a tree. In that bark there's a substance that can be isolated. When you isolate it in its pure form it is no longer a herb — it's a drug," Mr Flack says.

'Foods should be marketed as foods and medicines as medicines'

"We use the whole bark — you can even have it as shredded bark tea."

An advertisement for Fast Blast, calling it "the designer drug from America", was sent to Bristol University's student union for inclusion in its paper. The students, however, sent it to the Consumers' Association for advice and on that advice refused to carry the advertisement. The advertisement goes on: "Use it for improved reflexes, coordination, memory and sheer Brain Power. Witness your life change from a feeble intellect

tual to a bright spark... No exam too tough to pass..."

The origins of the advertisement are unknown. Mr Flack denies knowledge of it, or why it refers to his product as a "designer drug". He suggests that "someone may have messed with the wording".

David Dickinson, the editor of the Consumers' Association's magazine *Which?* *Way to Health*, which recently published a report on "Foods of the Future", says: "A lot of this movement grew out of research into Alzheimer's disease. There is a balancing act in the brain between two chemicals, acetylcholine and dopamine. People with Alzheimer's have too little acetylcholine and too much dopamine, so the idea was that more acetylcholine could help Alzheimer's patients — and help everyone. But what seems to matter is the balancing act between the two. These drinks either are not going to work, because acetylcholine doesn't last in the blood stream, or could interfere with that balance."

The Times asked the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), the health department, the Medicines Control Agency, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, and the Advertising Standards Authority how such products could be sold and advertised

as they are. Each organisation advised speaking to one of the others, saying that "this is a grey area" and "not really ours". The ASA said that "this does not appear to be a major area of consumer concern".

"Legally you can sell or take anything you like as long as it's fit for human consumption," says Roger Odd, the head of practice at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. "The illegality is in the marketing and promotion. A joint MAFF and DoH report on dietary supplements is due out shortly on the topic of making medicinal claims. Our line is that foods should be marketed as foods and medicines as medicines."

A case of role reversal

IN ONE respect, as Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev endured three days of house arrest in the Crimea, their normal roles were reversed. Mr Gorbachev's health is usually of concern to his wife. She watches over his diabetic control, and this is said to be one of the reasons that she so often accompanies the Soviet leader overseas.

However, it has never been made clear whether Mr Gorbachev's diabetes is insulin-dependent, in which case his life would be in the hands of anybody who controlled his syringe or insulin, or whether his wife's duty has been confined to ensuring that he takes his tablets and avoids the black forest gâteau.

Over the past week Mr Gorbachev has, unusually for a Soviet leader, been publicly expressing concern over his wife's health. There has been speculation that Mrs Gorbachev's alleged general weakness and problems with the muscles of her hands could have been the result of a minor stroke. A more probable explanation is that the stress of incarceration (and as a wife



Stress: the Gorbachev family arriving back in Moscow

of a former head of a KGBs she would know that detention in the Soviet Union has an uncertain prognosis)

caused hyperventilation, or over-breathing. Patients who hyperventilate feel that they cannot get enough air. In consequence they breathe too quickly and expire so much carbon dioxide that there is a change in the acidity of the blood and brain which leads to distressing symptoms: weakness, chest pain, sometimes collapse and character-

istically pins and needles with spasm in the muscles of their hands. The condition is not dangerous.

Mr Gorbachev, despite his vigour under normal circumstances, looks old for his age, possibly a result of his diabetes. If his recent performance has been lacklustre, perhaps this is the result of emotional trauma, for good diabetic control needs an easy mind and a fixed routine, luxuries he has been denied recently.

Good news for fathers

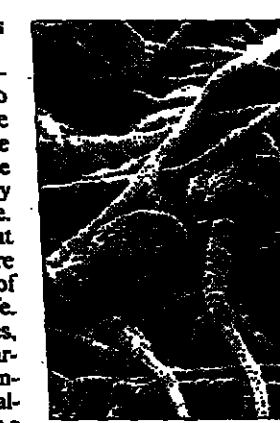
OVER the past 15 years treatment for female fertility has been revolutionised by sophisticated hormone treatments, in vitro fertilisation, Gift, ovum donation and improved pelvic surgery.

However, if the male partner is responsible for the childlessness, the problem has seemed to be as intractable as ever. Two reports in the past four months have given hope to men with a very low sperm count, or those with inactive and feeble sperm.

In May *Pulse* magazine reported that a new micro surgical technique was enabling doctors at the Hammersmith Clinic in London to treat men with poor quality sperm so that, after spinning, washing, and filtering, enough suitable sperm could be found for insemination. If necessary, sluggish sperm could be spurred to greater activity by the drug tentoxifylline. The wives of seven of nine men at Stoke Mandeville hospital, who had been written off as infertile after spinal injuries, conceived after

their husbands' sperm was treated in this way.

This week doctors at Nottingham university are to start micro injection of the female egg with a single sperm, which would have been otherwise too large to cross the ovum's surface. The procedure, carried out with a needle with a bore only one-seventh the size of a human hair, seems safe. Already used in 35 countries, it results in babies apparently as fit as those conceived more naturally, although as yet there is only a 5 per cent pregnancy rate.



Spurred on: human sperm

Ticked off by the deer

LYME disease has reportedly affected people and dogs living near London's deer parks. In one case quoted, a 30-year-old patient would have required a heart pacemaker had not correct diagnosis been made and appropriate antibiotics prescribed. Lyme disease is borne by a tick which has a preference for deer as a host. The early symptom is usually a red bump surrounded by a weak; in some cases there is later

involvement of the heart, brain or, more usually, the joints. Treatment is with antibiotics. Recent research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* suggested that 25 per cent of those who were not given a ten day course of a modern penicillin at the time of the rash would develop serious complications, sometimes up to ten years after the tick bite. Fortunately these cases, too, responded to antibiotics.

Companies are using genetic tests to select employees

The dole in your genes

Fifty of the top 500 companies in the United States are using genetic tests to filter out job applicants who are at higher average risk of suffering a heart attack, British experts feel that tests, and others that individuals at above risk of alcoholism, are used.

Addressing the subject, a French national conference

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TAMINS

Below those in high street

Below those in high street

Below those in high street

Below those in high street

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Below those in high street

Below those in high street

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that legal safeguards must be put up against compulsory genetic screening. She told 700 geneticists attending the eleventh international human gene mapping workshop: "Insurance companies will demand a genetic printout as now they demand a medical examination, and the result will be that people and their families may be compelled to discover things they would have preferred not to know. Similarly, where potential employers now demand a medical check, they too may demand a genetic screen."

Genetic experts in this country are dismayed that America is allowing screening without ethical safeguards. Consumer groups in the US believe a biological underclass is being created of people who may represent a future liability for employers.

Dr David Cooper, a senior lecturer in molecular genetics at the Thrombosis Research Institute of the University of London, says: "I find the headlong rush of the US employers and insurance companies into this area extremely worrying. We can determine which defects are causing venous thrombosis in families by sequencing the genes, but in our experience only about half the family members bearing the defective gene will actually be affected."

Dr Cooper said he would himself want to know if he were at higher risk of a genetically inherited disorder. "But I think it is important

that those who want the information get it, and that those who don't are allowed to retain their privacy." As AIDS has shown, such conditions are hard to enforce. According to Dr Natalie-Jane Macdonald, the secretary of the ethics committee of the British Medical Association, some employers, company pension schemes and insurers are asking for tests for HIV antibodies.

Although the discovery of the exact location of a mutated gene on a chromosome causes much scientific excitement, there are other more conventional ways of discovering how we are programmed to develop illness. The presence, or absence, of certain biochemical markers picked up from relatively simple blood tests can give the game away. High cholesterol levels, identified by a test costing a few pounds, can indicate a genetic predisposition to heart disease.

Sir Walter Bodmer, the president of the Human Genome Project, which is coordinating the international effort to map genes, says: "Genetic screening has an enormous potential to prevent ill health, but it should be done only where we can offer people interventions, such as blood pressure monitoring and dietary advice, that reduce their risks. I agree with Baroness Warnock that legislation is a good form of protection."

ANN KENT



Baroness Warnock

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QANTAS

Sympathy for a devilish heroine

An exquisite tension permeates this story of a woman maimed by disappointment, writes Hugh Barnes

Anita Brookner's new novel begins with fear and ends with a kind of banishment. In between are sex (or the promise of it) or the memory of it) and despair. A *Closed Eye* is one of Brookner's woman-on-the-edge stories — like her 1983 novel, *Look at Me* — and the point, as always, is that it's a bad idea to nurture a talent for self-destruction.

Brookner's heroine — a word not entirely apt — is a middle-aged woman who is on the run as well as on the edge. The novel opens with Harriet, alone and disoriented, trying to fix her painfully shattered life, which unfolds in flashback. In her emotionally numbing state, Harriet cannot seem to find anything restorative or even anything particularly new. She moves from place to place. It soon becomes clear that childhood formed and deformed her. She grew up more or less ignored by her frivolous parents who reproached her for intruding on their leisure-dazed bliss.

In her career as a writer of fiction, Brookner has demonstrated a peerless understanding of two apparently contradictory kinds of women. There are the wilful types, like Frances in *Look at Me*, whose joys lie in transgression, in scandalizing, and there are those passive ones, like Harriet, who seem trapped by their sensitive natures and by their eagerness to conform to others' expectations.

In some ways, Harriet is a monster — a woman made grotesquely selfish by disappointment — and yet the language does not work to distance us from her. On the contrary, it draws us in and immerses us in the slish of her emotions, and Brookner succeeds remarkably in portraying Harriet's incommunicable resentment over the inexplicable restraints of her life.

The author has probably never created a character more deeply divided — both in herself and in the meaning she carries for the reader. The style is insistent but expectant, alert with both anxiety and desire. The opening chapters of *A Closed Eye* turn arbitrariness



Never a cautious writer, Anita Brookner this time has set herself the terribly difficult task of telling an ironic tale in a romantic style

A CLOSED EYE
By Anita Brookner
Cape, £13.99

perate to get worked up. Brookner is trying to do something terribly difficult in *A Closed Eye* to tell an ironic story in a romantic style. Over all, Harriet behaves abominably. She seems to believe that her suffering gives her the right to snuff around in other people's lives. Nevertheless the voice that Brookner has given to her confused and desperate, and irritating, heroine is a persuasive one: her perceptions are (though select-

tive) amazingly acute, and her feelings are (though not always admirable) delicately nuanced.

At the same time, in *A Closed Eye*, Brookner brings two opposing strains of her writing into a powerful, contrapuntal relationship. She writes confidently in the English tradition of social novelists for whom character, decor and language must be smoothly recognizable without being truly specific. Yet she brings to the English scene an outsider's precise eye — Brookner's own parents were born in Central Europe.

Admirers of her intelligent, bittersweet stories about prosperous women (and men), of her

wounded epigrammatic style, the almost bejewelled talent and alertness to incongruity will be glad to know that this latest novel, with its visits to the opera, holidays in Switzerland, and elegant town-houses, is rooted firmly in the territory she has made her own. For other readers of *A Closed Eye*, however, certain things may be lacking, particularly a suggestion of turbulence and of disorder more savage than incongruity can bear. Anita Brookner is a carrier of disturbing emotions but she writes so thrillingly well that sometimes you cannot help gliding over a surface that is, in truth, filled with bumps and lumps.

Up the greasy pole

Chris Petit

THE FINAL ADDICTION
By Richard Condon
Michael Joseph, £18.99

THE load of excessive thriller reading is occasionally lightened, never more than by Condon, whose body of work, from *The Manchurian Candidate* to his *Prizzi* novels, places him ahead of many American authors of less volume and greater academic reputation. No one better catalogues, or with greater hilarity, corruption and moral bankruptcy in the US system. Condon also takes up less space, here coming in at under 300 pages, slings for the genre. The media, organised crime, lawyers, shambles, politics, and intelligence agencies all get put through the wringer and hauled out to dry in this fable of a handsome Frankfurt salesman who dreams of being a TV anchorman and finding his long-lost mother. She, in a delightful coincidence, dreams of being the next First Lady and is in the process of laundering her multi-billion dollar empire to that effect. The result, when the twins meet, is black farce of the highest order, and the rise of the son, with alarming ease, to the top of the greasy pole.

Second Sight, by Charles McCarry (Hutchinson, £13.99). The author is a writer's writer — Condon. Ambler. George V. Higgins, even Aaron Waugh, line up to praise his style, and an ex-CIA director is on hand to vouch for authenticity. This seventh and final novel in a series does what Le Carré did for the British secret service, the difference being more romantic panache (another long-lost child surfaces), less of the down-beat, more civilisation, less — my class. McCarry's conclusion to the career of Paul Christopher has enormous reach. This final mystery, with roots in biblical history, incorporates a panoramic review — of a life in espionage, and of America's clandestine history — that shifts between ancient and recent past (Nazi Berlin), up to the end of the Cold War. The first service is to the story, hence a book much more readable than most in this field. Interesting conversation further singles it out from a genre noted for leaden, exposition-heavy dialogue.

Night of The Seventh Darkness, by Daniel Easterman (Griffin, £13.99). The one about the weird cult and the national conspiracy gets another outing, better than most, with Haitian voodoo penetrating US government. The extensive body count has the protagonist witness the separate dispatching of both parents. The bereaved is a long-suffering Jewish cop confronted by persuasive zombie research, and much evidence of their rampaging ability. In spite of its pulpish plot, a serious novel struggles to emerge, particularly during a sombre trip to distant Haiti. This feverish landscape fires Easterman's imagination more than New York, and here the story moves satisfyingly to a lurid climax.

Isvik, by Hammond Innes (Chapman, £14.99). Four-letter words, narcotic induced sexual frenzy, and hints of incest are not how I remember Innes' from youthful readings. More familiar is the straight-bait burn of a voyage into an inhospitable landscape. The usual flammable mix crew up for an Antarctic trip to search for an ice-locked boat hiding the usual dreadful secret. Dull hero is par for the course; more interestingly odd is the one-armed Ward, former barrow-boy, Eton educated, posing, for reasons unclear, as a Scottish pools winner. If Innes' grasp of character is engagingly daft, his basic narrative craft is not in question.

A sob in her voice

Antonia Bremner

ALMA COGAN: A NOVEL

By Gordon Burn
Secker & Warburg, £13.99

SMALL CHANGE

By Julian Fane
Sinclair-Stevenson, £13.95

LEMPRIERE'S DICTIONARY

By Lawrence Norfolk
Sinclair-Stevenson, £14.94

1960s, to whom Alma Cogan is only just a name, this is an absorbing read: an oblique meditation on the price of fame and a Fifties time capsule. The practice of blending fact and fiction — normally induces an allergic response, but here somehow one never even considers it. Gordon Burn literally becomes Alma Cogan. For dedicated Alma fans, I guess this work could be the prize memento in the collection.

Julian Fane's last novel, *Hope Cottage*, was a disappointingly two-dimensional calendar of fictional life in his home town of Lewes in Sussex. The unfortunately titled *Small Change*, a collection of shorter and longer stories promises no better, but delivers much more. Far from

short-changing one's expectations, it provides a lot of good, undemanding bedside reading.

The opening story is a masterly evocation of an Edwardian aristocratic childhood, which incorporates a father's adultery, a mother's melancholy, sibling tension, and the crumbling of a feudal world in the face of the first world war. You would not have thought there were many more Edwardian childhood pieces to read, but here one hangs on to every observation of the boy narrator.

The subjects of other tales include prep school life, an unlikely *femme fatale* and the afterthoughts of marriage. Fane writes with a delicate sensitivity born of a privileged upbringing; a shy young boy, allowed to attend a grown up dinner party, thinks of the people "condemned" to sit next to him; a wife suffers the full shock of widowhood — after an unhappy marriage — because she has lost "the arbiter of her days". Fane's is a world ruled by the formality of convention and disturbed by any break in routine.

Lawrence Norfolk has written a lengthy, first novel — and poured everything into it. The story is involved: set over the 17th and 18th centuries it shows how the formation of the East India Company and the massacre at the siege of La Rochelle in France lead to the publication of John Lemprière's classical dictionary.

The personal and family history of Lemprière intertwines with corporate fortunes and historical conspiracies, which scan the globe, combining learning with adventure, sorrow with success. It is not, however, a novel for August; one longs for a winter of crackling fires and long nights to re-read this astonishing dense work.

Reeling out the rhymes

Brian Alderson

MICHAEL FOREMAN'S MOTHER GOOSE

Foreword by Iona Opie
Walker Books, £12.99

THIS is not only a wonderful exhibition of self-assured draughtsmanship, with the artist totally in control of everything from dead pigs to dancing frogs, it is also an ingeniously dynamic piece of book-making.

For Michael Foreman has had the notion of bringing a fluent visual order to the 222 nonsenses that form his subject. Nothing so sterile as classification, which is utterly against the free spirit of nursery rhymes, but rather an almost cinematic flow. Scene follows scene throughout much of the book on a continuous horizon-line, so that events succeed each other with a crazy logic. The Grand Old Duke of York goes up

one side of a hill while, over the page, Jack and Jill tumble down the other side.

Such linear continuity lends itself to further high jinks, and Michael Foreman exploits the possibilities with just the right degree of wit. See for instance how

one of Mrs Hen's ten chicks has strayed round the corner of page 57 and is walking comically past a dog swallowing a mop on page 58; or see how the Master of the House comes home at Christmas time on page 69 (with a well-known Foreman snowman looking through the window) and then repeats the performance on page 70 when the May flowers are all in bloom.

Almost every page-opening gives evidence of such manipulative drawing — not to show the artist's cleverness, but rather to show his delight in playing with this heterogeneous mass of fanciful verbal toys. Go out all of you and get a copy of this book.



Who'll toll the bell? A scene from the funeral of cock robin which flows over three pages

Playing with forbidden nuclear fire

PAPERBACKS
Dinah Birch

SPLITTING THE ATOM

By Stephen Amidon
Bloomsbury, £4.99

THE GOOD REPUBLIC

By William Palmer
Minerva, £5.99

IN A FATHER'S PLACE

By Christopher Tilghman
Picador, £5.99

THE BROKEN BUBBLE

By Philip K. Dick
Paladin, £4.99

nuclear science as forbidden fire and retreats to a simpler life in rural Greece. Prometh-

us's bonds represent the threads which connect and constrain our lives. The novel begins with an image of the umbilical cord, and ends with an unwinding tape on a cassette recorder. The patterns are, if anything, a little too orderly. But then, this is a novel aiming to weave something beautiful out of our messy entanglements.

You would hardly guess that William Palmer's ambitious and solidly accomplished *The Good Republic* is a first novel. Jacob Balbus, after decades spent cherishing the aspirations of his Balic homeland in a threadbare London exile, is invited back by the newly confident nationalist movement. He envisages a proud and hopeful return. Instead, he finds himself confronting his own deeply compromised past. Jacob, it turns out, had been a

shy and conventional young man, whose frightened attempts to remain aloof from the ghastly events which overwhelmed his country under Soviet and Nazi occupation had abhorrent consequences. He became, almost without knowing it, a Nazi collaborator, and unwittingly betrayed hundreds of fleeing Jews to mass execution, including the woman who had been his first lover. Jacob is forced to recognise himself as a criminal, not a hero.

The achievement of the novel lies in the forgiveness it insists upon. Jacob does immense harm. But he is gentle and vulnerable and acts through weakness rather than malevolence. His anguished prevarications make him infinitely more likeable than the stronger and more principled characters who use and betray him. Jacob, too, is one of the

victims of history. New American fiction by men is much preoccupied with relations between fathers and sons. They are the theme of Christopher Tilghman's first collection of short stories. In *A Father's Place*, Like Amidon, Tilghman is asking for a new quality of attention and sympathy for hard-pressed fathers and their uncertain offspring. A middle-aged man has to come to terms with his mother's baffling re-marriage; a young husband takes his children in a desperate chase after his runaway wife. Sentimentality is a risk here, not always quite avoided. "And could human-kind ever condemn itself, could a man find fault with his species once having known a single two-year-old?" Depends on the two-year-old.

Philip K. Dick, who died in 1982, is best known for his

prolific science fiction, which includes *Blade Runner*. The *Broken Bubble*, a reissued novel set in the small-town America of the 1950s, seems to be quite different. In its cool focus on characters whose behaviour is so bizarre that it sometimes scarcely looks human it owes much to the perspectives of science fiction. Dick, as always, wants us to think about what humanity amounts to.

His hero, Jim Briskin, is a local radio DJ who has managed to preserve a programme of classical music as an island of high culture in the ocean of pop favoured by his young listeners. He refuses to mouth a crass commercial and is suspended from his job. Adrift from routine, he and his ex-wife are soon absurdly caught up in the troubled lives of two teenage fans. But misunderstandings are finally resolved, and domestic order restored. This is a robustly conservative novel, with an unsettling eye for the strange.

PRACTICALITIES

Marguerite DURAS

'An original, reckless, liberal voice'
Philip Howard, *The Times*

'Duras cannot write a dull sentence'

Times Literary Supplement

£4.50

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 29 1991

Up the greasy pole

THRILLERS
Chris Petit

THE FINAL ADDITION
By Richard Condon
Mandel Joseph, £18.95

Back in earnest

PATRICK Garland, who took over at Chichester Festival Theatre following Michael Rudman's unexplained departure in March, has had his appointment as artistic director extended for two years. Garland, artistic director from 1981-84, is returning to the festival, which is celebrating its 18th anniversary. Meanwhile, the Chichester board say they "have arrived at an amicable settlement".



Patrick Garland: staying

Needs must

ACTOR Michael Pennington is to make his directing debut in October with *Twelfth Night* in the English Shakespeare Company's slimline autumn tour. The switch is not so much the fulfilment of a lifelong ambition as financial expediency. Plans for four plays in 1991-92 touring season had to be trimmed to two after the company, of which Pennington and Michael Bogdanov are joint artistic directors, failed to make £100,000 on its Aldwych season.

Last chance...

MATISSE and Derain were the leading figures of Les Fauves ("wild beasts"), who between 1904 and 1908 not only painted the clouds with sunshine but saw rainbows in every foggy day. "The Fauve Landscape" offers a feast of colour in the Royal Academy of Art's new Sackler Galleries (071-439 4996) until Sunday.

ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre, Rock and Edinburgh Festival
PAGE 20

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Such stuff as dreams are made on

Geoff Brown on *Prospero's Books*, Peter Greenaway's latest, plus *New Jack City*, *Dying Young* and *Pump Up the Volume*

Peter Greenaway's astounding *Prospero's Books* (18, Lumiere, Gate). Screen on the Hill takes film-making to new extremes. Andy Warhol reached the reverse extreme when he fixed his camera in front of the Empire State Building and let it roll for hour upon hour. Greenaway practices maximalism: the film frame and soundtrack jostle with so many super-imposed shots, muting images, rapid cuts, and darting references to Dutch and Italian art that the mind buckles with fatigue. Try to imagine three previous Greenaway films projected simultaneously onto a screen already containing Shakespeare's *First Folio*, several video games, and the information bank at the National Gallery's new Sainsbury Wing: you will still fall short of the reality.

The key to the proceedings is *The Tempest*, though the text undergirds as much mutation as the images. Until the last moments, John Gielgud, as Prospero-cum-Shakespeare, speaks all lines, a dramatist-magician conjuring up his own universe. Only after Ariel stirs his master's compassion are the supporting players—Isabelle Pasco's Miranda, Michael Clark's Caliban, Michel Blanc's Alonso—granted their individual voices. Gielgud's own voice, as expected, is grandly melodious, though Greenaway's convoluted games inevitably shatter the play's dramatic curve.

In several respects, this is *Terminator 2* for the art-house circuit. Once again, movie hardware takes a spectacular leap forward: Greenaway's weapon is an electronic graphic Pambro, allied to Japanese Hi-Vision technology, which can twist any image round its finger. The audience stares amazed at Greenaway's flights of imagination, brilliantly realised (for a twentieth of the *Terminator* budget) by his regular cameraman Sacha Vierny and the production design team of Ben van Os and Jan Roelofs.

Blink, and you miss gyrating mythological figures, poses and tableaux ripped from art history, and a moving museum of Renaissance architecture. Costumes alone impale the eyes: Gielgud's scorching blue cloak, reminiscent of a Venetian doge; cartwheel ruffs; impossible footwear erupting in buckles and bows.

Greenaway can claim intelle-

tual justification for every aspect, from the structural device of the library of books Prospero took into exile to the tiniest reference to paintings by Botticelli or Bellini. For the hard-working viewer, there is much to feast on: familiar Greenaway obsessions (particularly concerning water); games with narrative and calligraphy that stretch back to *The Falls and A Walk Through H*. The published script (Chato and Windus, £12.99), featuring Greenaway's sketches and illustrations of his visual sources, will be of inestimable help.

Yet, just as in *Terminator 2*, the film's weight of paraphernalia squeezes human feelings into a corner. For all the nude bodies bathing and parading through Prospero's palace, the film's sexual temperature hovers near zero; only at the end, when Gielgud addresses the camera directly, a lifetime of acting etched in his face and voice, does the heart become properly engaged. *Prospero's Books* (filmed largely in Amsterdam, with financial aid from across Europe) is as daring and eye-dazzling as anything achieved by a British filmmaker; and as cold to the touch as an iceberg. It plays in competition at the forthcoming Venice Film Festival.

A pulsating saga of bullets, blood and megalomania in a crack-infested New York, *New Jack City* (18, Warner West End, Cannon Haymarket) falls over backwards to be a film of today, geared for young urban audiences. The cast is headed by rap artist Ice-T and Wesley Snipes, a leading star in the black cinema renaissance; images vibrate with self-conscious style, from angled close-ups to artful decor. The film-makers declare themselves not only hip, but socially responsible: "If we don't confront the problem realistically," an on-screen message declares at the end, "drugs will continue to destroy our country."

No attempt may be made to make *New Jack City* appear glamorous, yet *New Jack City* proves a pretty blunt weapon in the fight to "just say no". Realism plays little part: this is high-gloss escapism, with a barnyard plot. Here is the gangster's rise and fall, with crack replacing Prohibition booze, to point up the Thirties link, drug king Nino Brown (the Snipes cha-



Doge-like figure: Sir John Gielgud as Prospero, forming an image "ripped from art history" in Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books*

acter) is seen watching Brian DePalma's *Scarface* remake. Another old friend, the infiltration of materials when under-cover cops use a reformed addict to penetrate Nino's headquarters.

Mario Van Peebles's bumptious, try-anything director papers over some holes through sheer noise and speed. But Nino Brown remains a stereotypical villain: all gold-chains and rat-tat-tat dialogue. Meanwhile, in the script, street-smart zing is increasingly traded for soap-box oratory. "It's not a black thing, it's a white thing, it's a death thing," one of the cops bleats about the drugs scourge. I get the point, teacher.

Dying Young (15, Odeon Haymarket) continues Hollywood's feverish love affair with Julia Roberts. Having died young herself in *Steel Dawn*, the beautiful actress now leaves the chores to costar Campbell Scott: wealthy, reclusive, debilitated by leukaemia, in need of a pal. Enter Julia, chewing gum, long legs to the fore. Hired as

his nurse, she sees him through chemotherapy, love finally blossoms when his hair returns at a romantic, dilapidated beach house. But the remission proves temporary; should Julia leave him, or love him to death?

Mawkish and contrived, *Dying Young* serves as a laboratory specimen of star exploitation. As in

who share the same red hair colour. The director, Joel Schumacher, played some of these tawdry tricks in the odious *Flatliners*. But here he outdoes himself, heightening scenes with absurdly fancy lighting. It is wasted effort: this weepie generates more laughter than tears.

High school angst is on the march in *Pump Up the Volume* (15, Cannon Haymarket), a facile youth drama from writer-director Allan Moyle, who has apparently been in hibernation since his runaway teen saga *Times Square*, which was 11 years ago. The long sleep appears to have done little for his talents.

Christian Slater—of the whiny voice and cantilevered eyebrows—plays a shy, frustrated Arizona pup who loses all inhibitions once he takes to the airwaves as an anarchic radio disc jockey called Hard Harry. In between lewd and loud songs, H.H. incites teenage rebellion: "Get crazy!" he pleads. But since these youths already lead charmed lives, with ineffective

parents, lax school rules and every consumer accessory at hand, their anger seems no more than skin-deep. The music jangles with energy; otherwise this is a film of drab photography, histrionics, muddle and fudge.

Foreign-language entries take a back seat this week. Jean-Jacques Beineix's first feature, *Diva* (15, Cannon Piccadilly), an influential exercise in visual chic which achieved cult status and made a popular figure of Wilhelmina Fernandez (the opera singer of the title), is revived in a new print. Beginning on Sunday, the National Film Theatre hosts eight performances of Yuri Mamin's satirical comedy *The Fountain*, in which a crumbling apartment block symbolises Soviet society struggling to cope with perestroika. The bathwater runs black; a collapsed roof is propped up with old planks ("Strength—The Country's Might"). For full appreciation, practical experience of communist mass housing is probably necessary; but Mamin presents his material with enough gusto to suggest he is a comic talent worth noting.

In several respects, this is *Terminator 2* for the art-house circuit. Movie hardware takes a spectacular leap forward

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

Low-budget operator who has a wealth of creativity to draw on

John Sayles, a novelist, scriptwriter and film director who is wearing all three hats this week, talks to David Robinson

In Japan, John Sayles is used to being greeted in the streets with excited murmurs of "Aki Kaurismäki". In terms of tall and handsome and unequivocally American, the mistake is understandable. To Westerners there is not much facial similarity, but both have the loose, athletic walk and straight backs of big men who feel no need to apologise for their size by affecting a stoop. At six foot four, Sayles probably has the edge on Eastwood.

He is in Britain to promote an unusual hat-trick: a feature film, *City of Hope*, which he produced, wrote and directed; an epic 473-page novel *Los Gusanos*, published this week by Hamish Hamilton; and the pilot for a television miniseries, *Shannon's Deal*.

Sayles' whole career exemplifies this kind of energy and diversification. Born in Schenectady, New York, in 1950, he majored in psychology but took up writing short stories, mental while supporting himself as a factory worker and hospital orderly. A spell as an actor in summer stock first convinced him that he wanted to direct movies, but he kept on writing.

He was already established as a novelist when he joined Roger Corman as a scriptwriter, bringing a sophisticated touch of tongue-in-cheek to exploitation genres. After *Piranha* (1978) he wrote *The Lady in Red*, *Alligator*, *Battle Beyond the Stars* ("The Seven Samurai in space") and *The Howling*.

His own first film was very different from these. *The Return of the Secaucus Seven* examined political, social and sexual change in America through the story of a group of former Sixties drop-outs, reunited a decade on. It was the first of a series of films, including *Lianna*, *The Brother from Another Planet*, *Maternal* and *Eight Men Out*, that are far from the Hollywood conventions. Sayles has maintained his independence to make the films he wants by working economically, on low budgets, without major stars; strategies he first learned from Roger Corman.

total \$20 million (£12 million), the budget of an average feature film in Hollywood today," he says. "Pre-planning is the secret. Generally I shoot my films in seven or eight weeks. *Brother from Another Planet* was shot in four. *City of Hope* in five.

"My films don't get a mass release, but the American market is so huge that even a tiny proportion of it will earn back enough for films made on my kind of budget: three or four million dollars.

"One of the reasons I make movies is that nature abhors a vacuum. And when you see a lot of things in your life that you don't see on the screen—people, entire ethnic groups or just the truth of everyday life—you want to make films about them. My films are very much about communities,

and the way people live together and how they are pressured by their communities. "City of Hope" is about urban corruption, but it is also what happens in a society that is not homogeneous, about tribalism, and where you put your loyalties. Am I a black person, a woman, a mother, a member of this constituency, an American citizen? Where is my first loyalty? The community can be wonderful and supportive, but it can also smother you.

"*Los Gusanos* connects with this idea of community. It is about Cuban exiles in Miami, trying to forge ahead in their adopted society, but still fighting the old battles against Castro. "I started writing the book 13 years before I finished it. I suppose the writing part was

about a year and a half. I wrote in short bursts, between making movies. Meanwhile, I was also writing scripts for other people's movies to make money for my own. At the same time I was teaching myself Spanish.

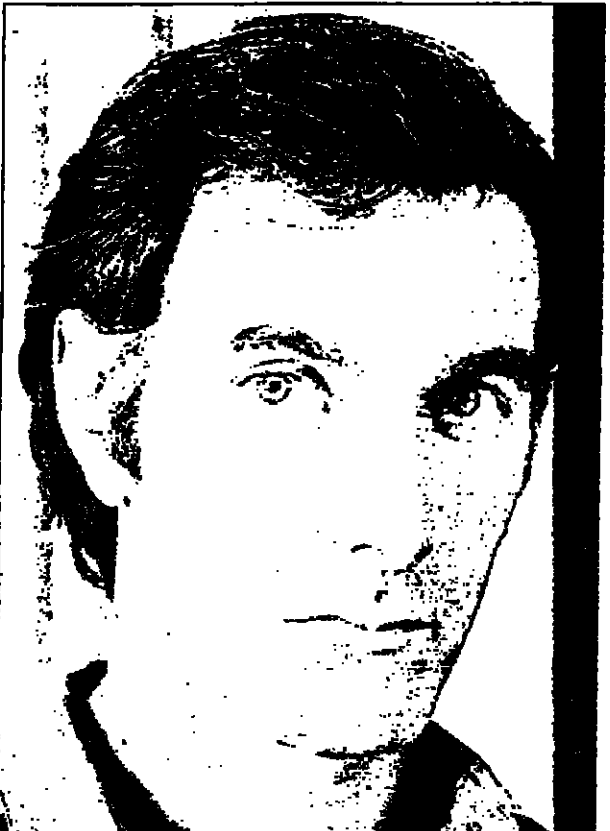
"Once in a while there would be a Writers' Guild strike which would enable me to do a little writing. I would come back after five years and say, 'Well this is quite unfamiliar but it is not bad.' Only once did I get totally lost. Three years earlier I had put the book aside, leaving a dead drug-dealer in the trunk of a car in a parking lot. When I came back to it I had forgotten why I had put the guy there. I had to think up a new reason."

Telling the story from the viewpoints of at least 20 different characters, *Los Gusanos* has an unusually complex structure. "Each character and point of view has its own rhythm, style, view of the world. You can do this in a novel, where you cannot in a film."

Sayles feels that *Shannon's Deal* also goes against the usual conventions of film and television, "because it deals with a failure. Americans traditionally have a feeling for the underdog, but they like the underdog to be a success in the end. Rocky has never lost a championship."

Sayles has four screenplays he wants to make, "but I don't have titles. I am very bad at titles. One story is about the relationship between a paraplegic woman and the person who looks after her; imagine Bergman's *Persona* done as comedy. Then an adaptation of *Yellow Rats in Blue Water*, about three generations of women in an American Indian family. That is too long for a single movie."

"I have written a children's movie about seals to be shot in the west of Ireland. And now I am adapting *Brother from Another Planet* into a television series. Oh, yes; and I am writing a movie for Jonathan Demme about the sinking of the ship *Indianapolis*, at the end of the second world war. And of course I am still writing short stories."



Sayles: a film-maker because "nature abhors a vacuum"



Throwing themselves into their work: Writer-director Bob Eaton (left) and the cast of *Good Golly Miss Molly*

Real-life rock 'n' roll gang show

Simon Tait reports on a new musical in which the cast are also the producers

Even a recession can have its silver lining. Mickey Rooney's 1930s *Andy Hardy* movies always seemed to have the teenage impresario succumbing to impossible odds in his search for venues and backing for his musical, only to begin the final reel by standing in the middle of a barn and declaring "Hey gang, why don't we do the show right here? We can do it."

Another recession, another country, and a real-life version of the Andy Hardy story unfolds. *Good Golly Miss Molly* opens at the Arts Theatre in the West End next Wednesday, thanks to the commitment of the cast of ten and production team who staged most of the £60,000 needed for the show.

Bob Eaton wrote the show and is directing it. It was first seen at the New Victoria, Newcastle-under-Lyme, in 1989 where it recorded an unprecedented 100 per cent box office. The cast was largely unknown, but there were two special ingredients: pop songs from the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies and a local cause as a story line.

Many of the cast had never sung the original versions of the songs they sing. The

youngest member, at 26, is Frances Fielding. "None of us had ever experienced capacity audiences stamping their feet and shouting for more like we had," she says. "There were great reviews and we waited for the next thing to happen, for Bill Kenwright or the Old Vic to take it up. It never happened." The team sat together in a pub thinking of the West End and aware that the Arts Theatre was becoming available, and found themselves mouthing the Andy Hardy lines.

"We were already committed to the show personally, and times being what they are we weren't exactly spoiled for choice of film scripts, so we decided not to wait for somebody to take it but to do it ourselves," says Fielding. "We found that raising the money was not as difficult as we thought, though it was hard work."

The theatre is practically a fringe venue within the West End, but even so, £60,000 is a fraction of what it would usually cost to put a show on. The cast kept the costs

down by not charging expenses for telephones and bus fares, by having no publicity machinery and by mucking in. Fielding, for instance, is a graphic artist as well as an actor/saxophonist/pianist/singer, and Ray Burnside (singer/actor/drummer) is skilled at desk top publishing. They also had contacts which persuaded the likes of Alan Ayckbourn, Ian Albery and Rod Hackney to help with advice and money.

Rod Hackney? The storyline is the fight by residents of Hawes Street in Stoke to save their homes from redevelopment in 1986. Instead, and with the help of Hackney (the community architect favoured by the Prince of Wales), they persuaded the local authority to let them design their own redevelopment. One of the cast now lives in a house saved by the campaign.

For the musical, Bob Eaton has created Molly Gordon as the fictional leader of the campaign, and follows her life in the Potteries through the

Good Golly Miss Molly is previewing from Saturday at the Arts Theatre, London WC2 (071-836 2132) and opens on Wednesday.

Are the dirty tricks over?

Ben Pimlott reads new evidence of a plot to discredit Harold Wilson

A key question in Boris Yeltsin's Russia is the future role, if any, of the KGB. If it continues to exist in some form (history suggests that so rooted a monstrosity is unlikely to fade quietly away), its Orwellian phase as a threat to democracy worldwide is certainly over. So should we in the West continue to spend public money in order to ferret out present or potential Kim Philbys and George Blakes?

M15 and M16, Britain's security and intelligence agencies have not just been anti-Red. Originally developed to counter the German threat, they have been adapted to wide-ranging terrorist operations, especially in Northern Ireland. Their main traditions, however, were forged soon after the second world war, when their *raison d'être* was the seriousness of the Soviet danger. This provided the rationale for the "positive vetting" and the investigation of would-be ministers, especially Labour ones. Even when the overt risk from the Soviet Union receded, anti-Marxism continued to provide the ethos of the security world.

Revelations in the 1980s showed how far some officers were prepared to go to tackle what they saw as a KGB-inspired menace at the heart of British government.

Yet opinions have differed about whether the behaviour described in *Spycatcher* was merely an irritant, or whether it could be seen as symptomatic of a major political sickness. Stephen Dorrell and Robin Ramsay, editors of *Lobster*, a newsheet which for years has dug away at the dirty detail of official malpractice, take the pessimistic view. They are, of course, just the kind of people whose phones are tapped and whose friends are approached in pubs by inquisitive gentlemen in crumpled raincoats. Nevertheless, their assiduous collation of the evidence makes rum reading.

In their study of security operations against the Harold Wilson's government, *Spycatcher*, published today, (Fourth Estate, £20) they see a grand scheme, in which M15 and M16 are merely players. They suggest that it was not only the "secret state" that had it in for Wilson and his friends, but much of what they call "permanent government": the higher ranks of Whitehall, the military, media organisations, many private firms, parliamentarians, think-tanks and so on.

The authors' claim is that a non-accountable network collectively sought to undermine Wilson's premiership in a variety of ways, ranging from the dissemination of scandalous stories to the notorious (in some eyes ludicrous) Cecil King "coup" of 1968. They maintain that "permanent government" objected to Wilson precisely because he was a threat to its interests and values, and that a smear campaign by members of

the secret state was not just an aberration, but part of a determined, upper-echelon campaign to oust a Labour prime minister.

The charges cannot simply be laughed off. That the campaign against Wilson went beyond the bounds of legitimate politics and was greeted with approval in high places cannot be denied. Of all British prime ministers, Harold Wilson undoubtedly began with the best press and ended with the worst. In retrospect, it is arguable that neither the good press nor the bad was justified. It is also clear that the hysteria against Wilson in later years was a product not just of his mistakes, but of an establishment distaste to which the smears added credence.

According to Ramsay and Dorrell, the propaganda that emanated from, or was encouraged by, the "secret state", to the effect that the liberal-minded prime minister "was a crook, a Red, a union stooge, unpatriotic, a Walter Mitty and a threat to the British way of life", destroyed Wilson's reputation, demoralised him to the point of premature resignation, and has sustained the notion that the Wilson years were a time of unrelieved failure.

Yet in the authors' judgment, the Wilson period of full employment, social advance and humanitarian reform had much to recommend it. "After a decade of Thatcherite 'success'", they conclude, "we would welcome a return to Wilsonian 'failure'."

Perhaps the electorate would too, and in a few months we shall know. What then? If Neil Kinnock wins the election on a ticket distinctly reminiscent of Wilson, will the secret state be up to its tricks again? Even if the Dorrell-Ramsay thesis is wildly exaggerated, the idea that in some future crisis, government servants might feel free to feed their own versions of events to a receptive press is disturbing. The activities described by Peter Wright, Colin Wallace and others were designed to undermine legitimate government, and came to light only years later. Can we be confident that the election of a Labour government would never again be followed by such activities?

Some sort of "secret state" is still needed, given the number of dangerous people and regimes in the world, but the end of Soviet-based communism ought to end forever the silly equation of "left-wing" with lack of patriotism and risks to security.

The case for a wide-ranging, independent investigation of every nook and cranny of the secret state has been strengthened. Such an enquiry should be a priority on Mr Kinnock's constitutional agenda. If he becomes prime minister, he must act before the security spider closes in.

Ben Pimlott is writing a biography of Harold Wilson.



Peter Wright: *Spycatcher* fuelled conspiracy theory

BCCI creditors can expect little back, warns Neil Bennett, for the liquidators have first pick

The collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International was "not a carcass to be picked over" by professional advisers Sir Nicholas Brown-Wilkinson, the vice-chancellor, warned this week. But with Britain deep in recession corporate under-takers, the accountants and lawyers who specialise in insolvency, are making a mint. Luckless creditors hoping for their money back are seeing substantial sums going instead to those professionals who preside over the death throes of a business.

According to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, almost 20,000 companies went into liquidation last year. Each one of these is a profitable opportunity for professional advisers.

A liquidator's role is to collect and realise a company's assets, including its property, stocks and trade debts, and distribute the proceeds to its creditors. While the company's creditors may only receive a fraction of what they are owed, the liquidator is almost

Insolvency is booming

always certain to be paid. His fees have priority over all the company's other debts, second only to any legal bills generated in the company's collapse. Every penny earned by liquidators is a penny less to be shared by the creditors.

While most small liquidations generate a few thousand pounds in fees at most, the large crashes that have characterised this recession are a bonanza for the accountancy firms lucky enough to be chosen as liquidators. An administration, in which accountants are appointed by a court to try to rescue a company, are even more lucrative.

Liquidators, like most professionals, charge by the hour. Rates vary, but tend to start at around £20 an hour for unqualified juniors, rising to £120 for senior managers and more than £200 an hour for the best-known

senior partners in the large firms. So when a team of accountants starts work on a complex failure, the hourly bill can exceed £10,000.

But liquidators' costs are often dwarfed by legal bills. City solicitors usually charge 25 per cent more for their time than accountants, while top commercial barristers often ask £4,000 for a day in court. Understandably, then, liquidators are wary of using too much legal muscle to recover a company's debts. One insolvency specialist estimates that a straightforward case, taking three days in court, costs around £50,000.

At this price, the depleted funds of a collapsed company can be whittled away to nothing in months. In the liquidation of the Savings and Investment Bank in the Isle of Man, Pext Marwick McIntosh and Cork Gully succeeded in raising £13.1 million,

but by the time creditors were paid, £7.6 million had been absorbed in fees.

A company's creditors at least have a right of appeal against liquidators' fees. A creditors' committee, such as is appointed after most company failures, can veto the liquidators' bills. In practice, this means that liquidators negotiate their fees with the creditors and offer them a cut-rate if their work has been substantial, or charge a premium if the winding-up has been successful.

The fees bonanza is also evident in the administrators' reports on Polly Peck International and British & Commonwealth. The first six months of Polly Peck's administration, run by Touche Ross and Cork Gully, the doyens of the insolvency world, has cost £5.5 million. The money was spent on flights to Turkey and

Cyprus to retrieve some of the group's deposits and records. The year-long administration of British & Commonwealth has earned Ernst & Young and Buchler Phillips some £6 million, for which the two firms have succeeded in raising £450 million from asset sales.

But these operations will be dwarfed by the bills for work on the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Touche Ross, the bank's worldwide administrator, has transferred dozens of its accountants to work on the case. Sixty staff are involved in the emergency compensation scheme alone, and 30 bankers have been seconded to sort out BCCI's chaotic trade finance records.

Touche Ross has so far raised only £200 million of the £1.1 billion that BCCI owes its 1.1 million depositors around the world. Unless the situation greatly improves, the bulk of the funds will be taken by the professionals, leaving the bank's former customers to pick up the crumbs.

Why the buttock stops here

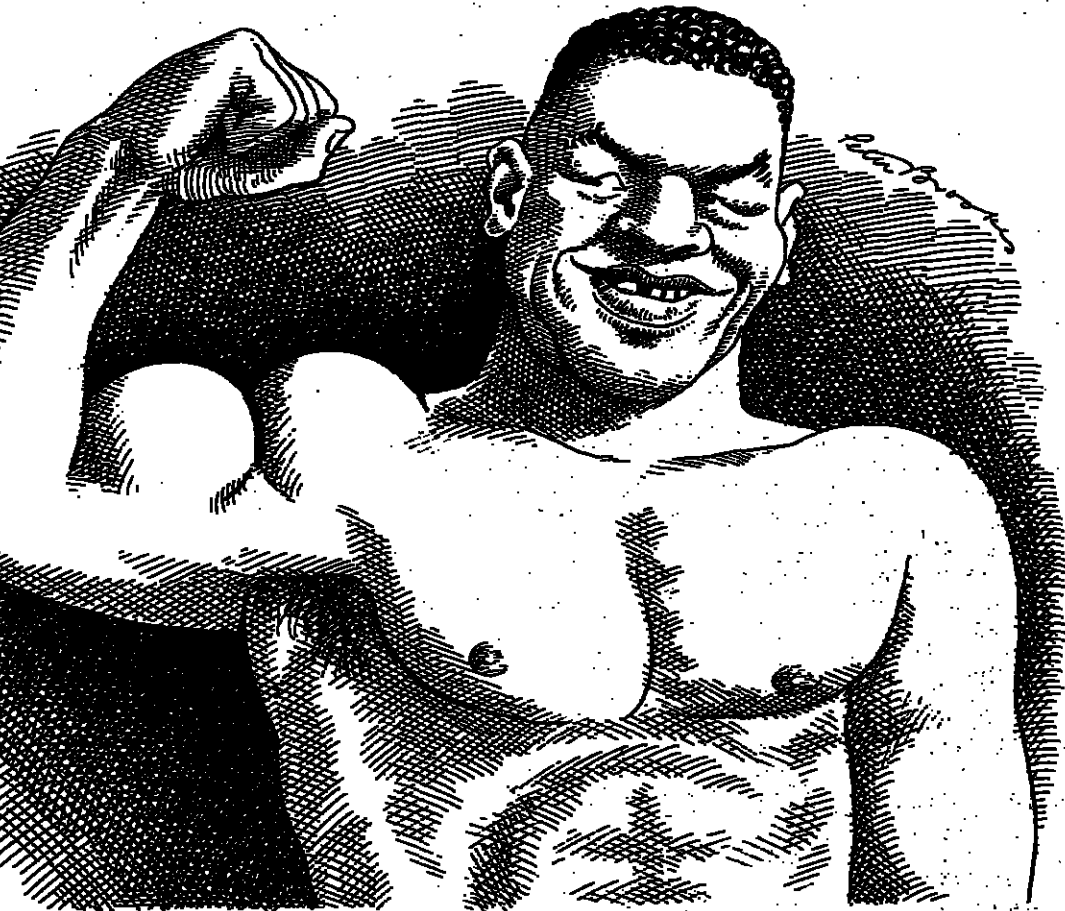
Bernard Levin finds a lawyer sitting on the bottom line

Today's subject is bottoms. There is much to be said for bottoms, too; I am quite eclectic in these matters, and in any case my tastes don't come into it — I just wanted to make clear where I stand.

It is alleged (happily in faraway Indiana) that Mr Mike Tyson, the champion boxer, present at the annual Miss Black America Pageant, turned out to be a champion in more than fistcluffs; the organisers of the event estimated that, without invitation, he had fondled or goosed the bottoms of more than half of the entrants. Now anyone even distantly acquainted with the United States will know that it is the most litigious nation in the world, a fact clearly due to the number of lawyers; when I last counted there were 740 million of them in Philadelphia alone.

It follows that the organiser of the event rapidly announced that he was suing Mr Tyson for \$21 million, alleging that the pugilist's behaviour had ruined the reputation of the event. So far, so good, particularly for the lawyers. But wait. A kind of epidemic must have broken out, because it is also alleged that in an earlier incident Mr Tyson had handled the bottom of yet another young lady — and it must have been a shapely bottom, because this one had actually won the Miss Black America contest in a previous year. But when the grope, a Miss Jones, regained her composure, she too made up her mind to sue; nor was there any dearth of lawyers to represent her.

Here's got down to work at once, announcing that his client had been "assaulted, battered and humiliated" (which is coming it strong), adding for good measure, though I have to say unsurprisingly, "we're going to get him for everything he's worth". No doubt; but it is here that, in Dr Johnson's words, credibility starts to stand. For the sum claimed for Miss Jones's offended dignity is one hundred million dollars, and that, you will allow, is



quite a lot of offended dignity. I do not think I am notably more avuncular than other men, but I have to say plainly that for £60 million — the approximate sterling equivalent of what Miss Jones's lawyer is demanding — I would allow virtually anybody to pinch my bottom, even Hattersley, and so would you, I dare say.

Of course, in matters not easily quantifiable, any lawyer might well hesitate before settling on the sum he proposes to demand for his client; too little, and the other side will conclude that the case is weak; too much, and a jury might feel the padding is a mite over-gilded. Presumably, in Jones v Tyson, the lady's legal advisors thought \$100 million would be roughly right.

It is no use speculating about what Miss Jones plans to spend the money on if she wins, and not only because it is difficult to think

of enough goods and services to mop up sixty million ounces; I mean, when you have knocked back half a dozen Häagen-Dazs cherry-flavoured ice-cream cornets and tucked a couple of Rembrandts under your arm, and still find that your nest-egg has, to the naked eye, hardly diminished at all, a sense of unease may arise.

This, in turn, may lead to the party of the first part searching the exact nature and extent of the harm suffered, though if the plaintiff's lawyer begins to think that his percentage is shrinking, he will no doubt take steps to ensure that his client's sense of outrage, shame, disgust, shock, anger, pain, embarrassment, horror and compensation will not waver.

There are other aspects of this business. It seems that when Mr Tyson was winding himself up to the alleged deed, Miss Jones

remonstrated with him (there is no suggestion that it was a case of groping by consent), saying: "Don't disrespect me and I won't disrespect you," a most engaging example of a substantive metamorphosing into a verb. I have no information as to Mr Tyson's view of grammar — whether he is a firm prescriptivist or one who welcomes the breaking of the ancient bonds — but I cannot believe that an American court would vary the damages in a case like this on the basis of grammatical laxity, though you never know.

Amid all this, which you will recall started with a demand for \$21 million for the lowering of the tone of a beauty contest and \$100 million for a pinched bottom (some chicken, some neck), one frail bloom of sense has feebly poked through the undergrowth. The first thought of the affronted lady, when the tort was completed, was to slap Mr Tyson. She stayed

her hand, however, and did so with these wise words: "He is Mike Tyson." He certainly is, and although there is no evidence that he would strike, as distinct from grope, a young lady, she was wise not to try her luck.

I recall that not long ago our own splendid Frank Bruno was involved in litigation, not concerning bottoms, and for some reason the proceedings took place in cramped conditions in a makeshift room. So cheek by jowl was everybody, that the other side's lawyer, found himself in such close proximity to the boxer that he felt obliged to ask, in open court, for an assurance that our hero would confine his replies to verbal ones, though if you can't hit a lawyer who can you hit?

Thirty million quid a buttock is the American going rate, I ask you. Of course, since the plaintiff is a model, it could be said, stretching a point, that her bottom is her fortune, so she would have had real grounds for a real action. But the offence given, though unwanted to the point of considerable distaste, could surely be assuaged by a slightly lesser sum — such as a couple of ringside seats for Mr Tyson's next bout.

But where would that leave Mr Pinsky, the advocate engaged on Miss Jones's side? A juicy percentage (and percentages are usually juicy in Mr Pinsky's profession) of a hundred million greenbacks, would keep Mrs Pinsky and all the little Pinskys in reasonable comfort for a reasonable time, and to see it snatched away by, of all odious actions, a friendly settlement, moreover, in which the lawyer's percentage would hardly stretch to half a Big Mac per Pinsky, might be felt so keenly that Pinsky himself would sue Mr Tyson for depreciating the assets.

But stay! Precedent, like the Seventh Cavalry, has come galloping to the rescue. In the small print it is revealed that a year ago Mr Tyson was sued, for exactly the same reason, in New York; a lady brought suit against him, alleging that he had grabbed her bottom. Mr Tyson lost, and the damages amounted to one hundred dollars. If the precedent followed, let's all go round to the hungry Pinskys' place and, to show there is no ill-will, bring them some ketchup.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

"Mr David Steel MP is in Moscow. He hopes to meet with the Soviet leadership during his stay" — press report. Monday, August 19. Dear Diary, I arrive in Moscow with greetings from the Liberal Democrats of Barnsley, Sidcup and Rotherham for President Gorbachev, as well as composite moustons from the Liberal Democrats of Richmond East, Devizes, Wiltshire and Hertsmere calling upon the President to ban all fox-hunting in the Soviet Union forthwith and "strongly condemning" him for "his role in furthering the cruel so-called sport of other-hunting through denying its opponents a major role in the political agenda".

Funnily enough, I am finding it quite hard to get in touch with Mikhail even though we have been, of course, friends and allies ever since we met on his last visit to Westminster for quite a bit longer than the scheduled 45 seconds. They say that he is ill in the Crimea, but I suspect this isn't true. I rather think it is an excuse, and he is

even a small military parade as well. "That's quite a welcome!" I say to a Russian gentleman. "A cool! A cool! A cool!" he keeps repeating. "Bless you!" I say. Obviously a hay-fever sufferer. Wednesday 21st. In my long and varied life in politics, I have travelled abroad a fair bit. For instance, I greatly enjoyed my visit to the Isle of Wight off the coast of Portsmouth during the election campaign of '87, and in my time as both leader and foreign affairs spokesman of the Liberal Democrats I have had the great good fortune to visit Portugal (summer hols, '79) and Cornwall (Trusthouse Forte weekend break '83), so by now I can make a pretty shrewd assessment of any situation I encounter in foreign parts.

When I deliver my international overview to the Liberal Democrats (Morecambe and Lunesdale), I will be mightily tempted to report that I believe something to be "in the air" in the Soviet Union. As a visiting VIP, one develops antennae for small mood-changes in a people. My evidence? President Gorbachev

sures against the banning of treadmill wheels in hamster cages.

I have already made a big advance: tomorrow I am hoping to see Mr Boris Pugo, a VIP of increasing influence.

Thursday 22nd. I am now informed that it would be inconvenient for Mr Pugo to see me as he has taken his own life. An unwelcome career move — in fact, political suicide. My own shrewd assessment of this event is that Mr Pugo did not have the nerve to face the brickbats of the Liberal Democrat Campaign for the Labelling of Ingredients on All Jams and Preservatives, whose branch resolution condemning the Soviets in this respect I am carrying about my person.

On the television in my hotel today, I watched Mr Gorbachev returning from his holiday in the Crimea in open-necked shirt, obviously greatly refreshed after a well-earned break. I imagine he has received word that I am in Moscow, but I earnestly hope that he has not returned solely on my behalf. He has always maintained close interest in the

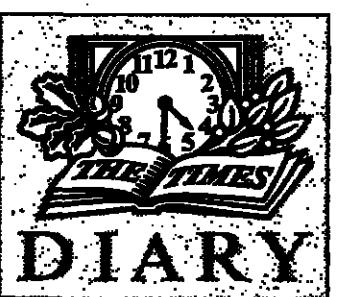
Only the finest

AS John Major and family begin their short holiday in Kennebunkport, tucked somewhere in the luggage is a gift for President Bush: a sumptuous volume celebrating the exploits of Royal Air Force pilots during the Battle of Britain. Entitled *So Few*, the text comprises biographies of 25 pilots who fought in the battle, illustrated by fine art prints signed by both the subjects and the artist, Michael Pierce.

The prime minister came across the book earlier this year, when he presented a copy to Lord Barber, chairman of the RAF Benevolent Fund, which benefits from the proceeds of its sale. The edition consists of 401 copies at £1,600 each. All but a dozen of the gilt-edged, 74 lb volumes, printed on handmade paper ("guaranteed" to last 500 years) have been sold.

Major was very impressed by the book and specifically asked if he could have a copy to present to Bush, says John Golley, the former Hurricane pilot who wrote the biographies. "Of course it is a very suitable present, as Bush was one of the youngest dive-bomber pilots in the US Navy. I hope it will strengthen the special relationship between them."

The prime minister is due to



Demetri Porphyrios's plans make full use of what the college's president, Dr Anthony Smith, calls "the Magdalen vernacular": 9 ft ceilings, oak staircases with decorated newels, old-fashioned fireplaces, and stone from the local quarry which has supplied the college since the 1470s.

The new building, which will include computer facilities and a lecture theatre, will stretch along Longwall Street, covering some of the deer park. But while every effort is being made to continue Magdalen's architectural traditions, the extension will be strikingly modern in one respect at least. Each room is to be built with *en suite* bathroom, a far cry from the days of freezing undergraduates dashing through the cloisters from the sparse and spartan communal facilities.

Dead wood

around the world "seems to have run its course". The final volume is already at the printers, so the yearbook will not have the chance to mark the passing of the phenomenon it has charted for more than a quarter of a century.

Maybe Karl should have been the silent one



● Welcome to a forthcoming magazine which has decided to boldly go where publishing has never been before. B-Movie will devote itself to the appreciation of what it calls "the not terribly good" end of the market. Says the magazine's Carrie Fugh: "We are appealing to anyone who enjoys seeing a Roman gladiator with a wristwatch." Similar preposterous errors, please.

£140,000 "suffers" the imposition of tax, the leaflet goes on. It does not mention that they suffer less since a Tory government reduced Labour's top rate of capital transfer tax from 75 to 40 per cent, but that pass. Nor does the leaflet point out that Labour's policy review promises "more effective taxation of inheritances, including lifetime gifts" and a more "recipient-based tax", transferring liability from the donor.

Those who have struggled to hang on to their statey piles in the face of crippling death duties imposed by Labour governments down the years are staggered at the apparent about-turn. "But it's a socialist tax," says the Duke of Devonshire. "When my father died, it took us 17 years to pay the taxes that were levied under a Labour government. It's a bit rich if they now on the one hand say they will lighten up on avoidance, and on the other to encourage it if people give the money to them."

Even cheekier is Labour's claim that its supporters are in a position to leave the party their money because "many people today are wealthier than they imagine". They probably are; and might that not just have something to do with 13 years of Tory government?

● As Channel 4 devotes itself increasingly to some



SOVIET SUCCESSION

Does the Soviet Union need to hold together? The answer is no, but that does not mean that it will become a collection of equal sovereign states on the European Community model. The enormous disparity between the size and wealth of Russia and that of the other republics will see to that. Boris Yeltsin, who yesterday asserted control over the Soviet state bank and all foreign currency dealings and trade in minerals and precious metals, is speedily establishing the Russian Federation as the "successor state". That will disappear as the empire controlled by three quarters of a century from the Kremlin. That empire, held together by force, is now bereft of all legitimacy.

A supranational authority, least of all one so ruthlessly centralised in its power structures as the Soviet Union, is not essential to the peace and prosperity of disparate peoples: indeed this thesis is one of the most awful fallacies of history. Finding ingenious reasons for holding it together is futile. Less futile is plotting the wisest manner in which to let the empire fall apart - sudden and anarchic collapse or careful deconstruction. The manner could critically determine how well the subsequent sovereign states can live together.

There is no shortage of examples of imperial deconstruction: the end of the Hispanic empire in Latin America, of the British empire in India, of various European empires in Africa. For several years after the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917, it looked though the former Russian empire might disintegrate. Communist repression served it, freezing but not eliminating the more virulent nationalisms.

No feature of international affairs is more elusive than that concerning boundaries. It is why every effort of diplomacy tends to be directed at holding borders intact, however arbitrarily they may have been drawn and whatever injustice appears shrouded in them. Because imperialism usually embraces colonisation, the breakup empires often involves the dislocation of peoples. Thirty million ethnic Russians now live outside the borders of the Russian Federation. To neutralise nationalism, State transferred not only Russians but slices of Russian territory to other republics.

The centrifugal force of national identity, in itself and as a factor in the freeing of Soviet people, must be acknowledged by the West. But the empire contains 130 nations. If borders begin to be redrawn, there might be many more than 15 republics emerging out of the Union. Georgia has its own Ossetia and dissident Abkhaz, the Crimean Tatars, Russia itself 16 Russian autonomous republics. Russia is foolish to open this question at the time of its new nationhood.

President Yeltsin has dispatched his ally, Aleksandr Rutskoi, to Kiev to seek agreement on self-determination in the Ukraine. There is a danger that the Ukrainian leadership, which is still largely nationalist, might seek to maintain itself by stirring up hostility towards ethnic Russians, as the Romanian government did attacks on ethnic Hungarians last year. Russia has no interest in giving any republican leadership an excuse to fan such dangerous flames. Some of the new republics, such as those in mainly Islamic central Asia or Azerbaijan and Georgia, may prove intolerant towards minorities.

There is a huge task involved in unpicking seven decades of authoritarian imperialism. Any border revision would require the full agreement of the other republics involved, presumably with plebiscites conducted under international supervision. In the great majority of cases, Russian minorities will have to be content with constitutional guarantees, as will other nationalities that find themselves on the "wrong" side of these often arbitrary borders. Anybody who thinks this is easy should look no further than British experience in Northern Ireland.

Peaceful deconstruction will be even more difficult on the economic front. Some 40 per

cent of industrial output is accounted for by products manufactured by a single enterprise. In the long term, however, there is no reason why small republics should not survive as independent states. There is much nonsense now being talked by neo-centralists about "non-viable" republican economies. Free markets and free trade should render the size of a sovereign state immaterial to its growth and prosperity. But the acute dependence of Soviet markets on monopoly supply does imply a painful transition, even if free trade is instituted swiftly.

The Soviet economy is so far from the free market state of grace that transition must be policed by some central authority. Agreements with republics will be needed to maintain the flow of transport, power, currency and produce across borders. The artificial pricing system has meant huge artificial transfers of wealth from the Russian Federation to the other republics. Were prices freed overnight to world market levels, they would all have a massive trade deficit with Russia. Some can afford to tighten their belts, but most of the Central Asian republics would be bankrupted.

The Soviet republics need a common monetary unit, at least initially. And some authority has to be responsible for Soviet foreign debt. Mr Yeltsin's successor state is necessary for the time being. That is a responsibility he must temper with more evident concern for democracy and consultation with the other republics than he has so far shown.

Defence is even more vexed, and here the outside world has a clear interest in the manner of imperial deconstruction. The essence of the nuclear balance of power was a rough equivalence of technology, of firepower and of central command and control. Predictability is essential if that balance is to continue at a much lower level of armaments and without the enmity engendered in the past by communist aggrandisement.

The Russian Federation looks certain to inherit the bulk of the Soviet conventional arsenal and probably the entire nuclear one. Such Soviet authority as remains should be exerted to repatriate to Russia those nuclear forces stationed in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. This should be on the understanding that, over the next few years, all tactical and the majority of strategic nuclear systems are likely to be scrapped, under the umbrella of existing strategic arms negotiations with the United States.

None the less Russia will continue for the foreseeable future to be a great military power, with the patriotic ethos of a professional army. Mr Yeltsin has so far harnessed this on behalf of liberal democracy, and early appointments to both the army and the KGB are encouraging ones. But the West must obviously maintain its defences for the next few years until the future of the liberal experiment in Russia and its former subject states becomes clearer.

Those who have administered an empire are rarely the same individuals as those whose task is to dismantle it. In November 1942 Churchill declared that, if the British empire was to be liquidated, "someone else would have to be found" to do it. On Tuesday, Mr Gorbachev threatened to resign if the Soviet Union was not preserved. To refuse to participate in the dismantling of one's life's work is understandable. But to use unselected office to block changes endorsed by democracy would be unworthy of a great statesman.

Mr Gorbachev's reputation is now in the balance. If he wishes to recover lost ground and set a noble seal on the events of the past month, he will back his acknowledgement that the Soviet Union cannot continue in its present form with sweeping legal and political proposals. Its dismantling requires political skills of the highest order. He has shown these skills in the past. But if he is unwilling to use them to steer this vast conglomerate of peoples onto a new course, he will be swept aside.

HOLIDAY HARVEST

The government is right summarily to have dismissed the proposal from the National Economic Development Council for an additional bank holiday, "Harvest Day", in October. NEDC, a creature of corporatism whose nickname Neddy sounds appropriately like a pantomime horse, somehow survived the quango-cullings of the 1980s. Now it emerges with a proposal with all the ices of that era, when last an additional bank holiday, a curious commemoration of lay Day, was instituted by Michael Foot. Neddy's latest plan seems to assume that people cannot take a holiday unless the state is them that they can do so, and when, in preference of the 1960s for producer or consumer interests lives on. The proposal is argued on the ground that it would create extra jobs on top of the 1.5 million that exist in the leisure industry by tending the tourist season, rather than cause people might enjoy themselves on a rest bank holiday.

The government, however, appears less sure that it should reject Neddy's more cautious alternative proposal, moving one of the spring bank holidays to the autumn. Industry tends to argue that it wants an uninterrupted production run from August to Christmas. Against that, the congestion of the holidays in the spring is a manifest absurdity, compounded by a date for Easter that according to a quasi-religious calendar which defies reason, if ministers are slow to act, the danger is that one day the European Commission will at would make a bad situation worse. Most European countries have between 11 and 13 bank holidays compared with

Britain's eight, though the disparity is reduced because they do not get an extra day when a feast day falls at a weekend. Let the commission loose, and the social charists of Brussels will soon give the nation more and more statutory days off, doubtless culminating in St Delors' day.

The question which nobody dares to ask is why have bank holidays at all? That economic life should grind to a virtual halt in August has come to seem inevitable, and Christmas is sustained by a combination of religious and commercial factors that render it sacrosanct. But the two May and one August days are wholly arbitrary. Good Friday has religious claims, but only a minority of the nation now actively practices Christianity. And Easter Monday has no liturgical meaning. Christians are wholly entitled to negotiate a holiday round Easter if they wish, just as Jews may take holidays if they want to observe Yom Kippur and Muslims the end of Ramadan.

There is no reason why others should be forced to follow suit, and plenty why they should not. Bank holidays no longer mean that banks are closed, since their essential function can be discharged by cash dispensers. Bank holidays mean traffic jams. Bank holidays mean "no vacancies" signs. Bank holidays mean shops shut, business lost, shift patterns disrupted. It would be better by far if people were granted a fair annual holiday allocation and left to use it as and when they chose, to the profit of those whose leisure facilities they decide to patronise - and to their greater pleasure if the whole world is not trying to do the same.

Arms control in the new Russia

From Dr David Lowry

Sir, The call by Aleksandr Rutskoi, vice-president of the Russian Federation, that Russia be given dual control over the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal (report, August 27) raises an important diplomatic conundrum.

At present, the government of the Soviet Union has signed a series of treaties on the control, limitation and dismantlement of nuclear weapons. Amongst these treaties is the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which was ratified by the Soviet Union on March 5, 1970, the same day as the United States. Along with the United Kingdom, these two nuclear superpowers became depository states for the NPT, which currently has 142 signatories. Under Article I of the NPT:

... each of the nuclear weapons states party to the treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices, directly or indirectly, and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any other non-nuclear weapon state to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons or

other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices (emphasis added).

Neither in the mid 1960s, when the NPT was negotiated by the Soviet Union, the USA and the UK, nor as recently as this time last year, when the NPT had just begun its fourth quinquennial review conference, were circumstances envisaged as to the sharing control over nuclear weapons by one of its depositories with sub-state powers within its own borders. It was never thought that the governor of California or Texas would demand joint control over the US nuclear arsenal with the president or the Pentagon.

This is surely an urgent matter for the United Nations to clarify. The UN Security Council will be insufficient itself because the Soviet Union, as presently constituted, is a member. But a clear decision is undoubtedly required.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LOWRY (Director),
European Proliferation
Information Centre,
258 Pentonville Road, N1.
August 27.

Transfer of know-how

From Mr James Hutchings

Sir, Mr Fountain (August 24) can rest assured that work is already taking place on plans to send management experts to train the new entrepreneurs of the Soviet Union.

The Future of Europe Trust is an all-party group, led by Conservative MP David Tredinnick and Labour MP Calum Macdonald, which has established links with a wide range of political and business leaders in the Soviet Union. In April we reached agreement with the Scientific and Industrial Union of the USSR to establish a programme for transferring management know-how from Britain to the USSR, with the eventual aim of creating a permanent institute for enterprise and entrepreneurship in Moscow.

The Scientific and Industrial Union represents the largest industrial enterprises in the USSR, and whilst the managers of such enterprises have previously been regarded as frustrating economic reform, this group supported Yeltsin and the democrats from the outset of last week's coup.

The president of the Scientific and Industrial Union, Arkadi Volkov, is now a key member of the committee appointed by Gorbachev to oversee

the creation of a new Soviet government. Working with the Scientific and Industrial Union, we will identify members of the next generation of managers in the USSR who would benefit from receiving practical as well as theoretical advice in how to work within a market economy.

We have consulted widely with leading British companies and with the CBI and government, who have welcomed our proposals, and our programme commences with a visit to Moscow of young British businessmen and MPs in October.

We believe firmly that a major programme of management training provided by Britain in the USSR will not only be of immense value to the Soviet managers concerned, but will also yield invaluable good will and commercial benefits for the British companies and managers who participate.

Only a few years ago Britain was the USSR's leading trading partner, but now we lie 17th, far behind our major competitors. Surely altruism and commercial sense must compel us to redress this position.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES HUTCHINGS (Director),
Future of Europe Trust,
St Stephen's House,
Victoria Embankment, SW1.
August 27.

Food and health

From Professor M. E. J. Curzon

Sir, Your medical correspondent reports (August 21) a recommendation that we should change to a Mediterranean diet, high in pasta, vegetables, fruit, olive oil and low in red meat.

A recent report (June 5) on life expectancy in Europe listed 72 years of age for males in both Britain and Italy. On this basis why should the British radically change their eating habits for no apparent benefit in terms of life expectancy?

Yours faithfully,
M. E. J. CURZON,
The University of Leeds,
Department of Child
Development,
Clarendon Road,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
August 21.

From Mr Claude R. Hart

Sir, I was very interested in the article about the health-giving qualities of a Mediterranean-style diet. Until I found it did not mention wine.

How could one attempt to stick to such a diet without incorporating one of the main props of the area's lifestyle?

Yours sincerely,
CLAUDE R. HART,
6 Egleston Walk,
Sevenoaks, Kent,
August 21.

Leisure at a price

From Ms Hilary Bradt

Sir, I recently bought a can of spray adhesive. Inside the cap was a special offer leaflet inviting me to collect tokens for a selection of free "bright summer gifts", including a pair of boxer shorts and a T-shirt, both sporting the company's logo.

To collect enough tokens for these "exclusive leisure time offers" I would need to buy £75 worth of adhesive for the T-shirt and £113 for the boxer shorts.

Exclusive indeed!
Yours truly,
HILARY BRADT,
Grey House (Flat),
Beches Drive,
Farnham Common,
Buckinghamshire.

Residential care

From the Director of Social Services, Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir, I hope Sir William Utting ("Children's home heads face tougher training", August 21) has some success in convincing government that residential care for children and adults requires a workforce which is dedicated, highly-skilled and trained.

His message that all children's homes should have a highly-qualified leader, be properly inspected, and in general have a much higher level of qualified staff has been pressed on central government for more than 20 years.

Many social services departments have embarked on successful training programmes, particularly lead-

Sheep and the tunnel

From Mr Charles Wyatt

Sir, Eurotunnel will not provide wagons suitable for sheep transport on its shuttles for hygienic reasons (report, August 20, later editions).

As the second largest exporter of lamb in the world, after New Zealand, we send over 70,000 tons of sheepmeat to Europe. Most of this is carcass and cuts, but around 400,000 lambs cross the Channel on the hoof each year. The numbers will be swelled in 1992, when the variable premium ends, by animals exported for fattening and breeding sheep.

There have been many disturbing descriptions of the problems and discomfort of transport by lorry and ferry of sheep into Europe. Eurotunnel could ease this at a stroke by getting the sheep across the Channel and onto the efficient French rail system in half the time and without any of the stress. Hygienic reasons should give way to humanitarian considerations.

Yours faithfully,
C. WYATT,
Hurst House,
Wittersham, Kent,
August 23.

Plainly speaking

From Mr M. J. R. Dennis

Sir, I read with interest Alan Coren's tribute to the authors of VAT instruction ("and more", August 21) but feel I must correct one error. We are not the direct heirs of Shakespeare, Milton and Dickens, none of whom worked for HM Customs and Excise. We are, however, descended from (among others) Chaucer, Burns, Congreve, Horace Walpole, Defoe, and Dryden, each of whom had that honour.

I hope your correspondent would agree that a department which has as its heritage Chaucer's spelling, Burns's use of English and Walpole's distinctive style has done rather well to win five awards from the Plain English Society.

Yours etc.,
MARK DENNIS (Curator),
HM Customs & Excise Museum,
New King's Beam House,
22 Upper Ground, SE1.
August 23.

ing to the certificate in social services, which has raised the standards in all residential care.

Those local authorities, like mine, who have made strenuous efforts to make residential care more attractive and to expect high standards of work are doing this in the face of increased levels of behavioural problems from young people and frailty and dementia among the elderly.

My authority spends well above the standard spending assessment for social services and in order to bring this to a level acceptable to

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071 782 5046).

Plea for a chance to rescue BCCI

From Mr Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester East (Labour)

Sir, It is important to clarify a number of points regarding the future conduct of the negotiations involving the possibility of restructuring the remains of the BCCI, now that the issue of provisional liquidation has been settled by the High Court (report, August 28).

The visit of our delegation to Abu Dhabi last week was a goodwill visit designed to assess the commitment of the various parties to the assessment and restructuring process. It was clear that both the majority shareholders' representatives and solicitors, Simmonds & Simmonds, and the provisional liquidators, Christopher Morris and Brian Smouha, were working flat out to ensure that the four-month adjournment period is being used constructively.

These negotiations appeared to be sincere, genuine and meaningful. Despite the unfortunate history of BCCI, all appeared to be keen that the depositors, creditors and staff got the best possible deal. Time is of the essence and I believe they are working to strict deadlines.

It is also vital for all involved to take heed of the vice-chancellor's sensible warning in the High Court yesterday that BCCI should not be treated as a "carcass" and that costs must be kept to a minimum. Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson's judgments and his decisions have been welcomed by depositors and staff. They have provided hope. He seems to care.

Much remains to be done if any proposal is to find itself coming to fruition. No master plan has yet been drafted or indeed costed. That remains the crucial issue. It is not, I'm afraid, a case, as you reported on August 27, that "Abu Dhabi has \$5 billion ready" for the new restructuring.

The authorities prior to July 5 had put together a sum of that order, and indeed had begun spending money in good faith and with the backing and approval of the Bank of England as part of the restructuring process. On July 5 everything was put on hold and the restructuring process was brought to an abrupt halt. Is there any wonder that there is such bitterness?

It was on the basis of this

information, provided by the majority shareholders' representative to the High Court, that the first and then the second adjournments were granted. The real test is to see whether the money set aside for that second. No box of new money was handed over to the delegation.

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan has been extraordinarily generous. He continues to spend a large amount of resources on mainly British advisers to try to resolve this matter. The Abu Dhabi authorities have allowed themselves only one public display of anger in an advertisement that appeared in Britain on July 25. They do not court or want publicity.

The media have regrettably not been able to separate the person who owns the bank from those who managed it. The difference was explained to me in appropriate terms as the difference between the manager and owner of a racehorse.

The British ambassador in Abu Dhabi is doing commendable work with the authorities on a local level. However, it is now important that Downing Street and Whitehall recognise that good friends and allies must be treated with more respect. There are important political and foreign policy implications to the closure of BCCI and that is why the Governor told the Prime Minister a week before the bank was closed.

John Major has to spare just a little bit of time to inform the Abu Dhabi authorities that he too supports any initiative that will benefit the depositors, creditors and staff and to thank the sheikh for his continued involvement and interest. A ministerial visit would be in everyone's interest. It would place the negotiations in a context of international good will.

There is no time for carping or for sitting on the sidelines, as the Bank of England appears to be doing. Only with this level of good will and support can we make progress. And only then, after a lot of hard work by a number of people involved in delicate and painful negotiation, will our prayers truly be answered.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH VAZ,
House of Commons,
August 28.

Arts funding

From Mr Julian Agnew

Sir, Mr Colin Tweedy (August 14) surely represents a wide spectrum of opinion in the arts when he writes that the new Foundation for Sport and the Arts should not be considered as a substitute for a national lottery.

But I hope that those responsible for distributing funds from the foundation will not be unaware of the enormous impact that a comparatively small amount of money would make to the acquisition policies of the national and regional museums in the UK.

The combination of frozen government grants and a rising art market have led some museum directors almost to despair of ever being able to acquire again works of art of the quality which matches their existing collections.

Even the well-tried Waverley

Gallery comforts

From Mrs Joyce Chaplin

Sir, A great deal of praise has been lavished on the new Sackler galleries at the Royal Academy, and rightly so. Colour and light in the Fauteuil landscapes have been made even more brilliant by their setting in these galleries.

May I suggest, however, that the architects seem to have overlooked the human element? It is as if the pictures are votive offerings to the rustic gods and goddesses of Chelton, Collioure and elsewhere, and not intended for the enjoyment of ordinary mortals.

Opposite the Michelangelo tondo a hard stone bench with capacity for

Population limits

From the Chairman of Population Concern

Sir, We welcome Sir Crispin Tickell's call for support of international organisations seeking to limit world population growth (report, August 27). His speech underlines the scale of difficulties that the earth and its inhabitants will face if environmental issues including population are not addressed with urgency.

Next year, the members of the United Nations are holding a conference on the environment and development. However, almost no attempt is being made at present in the planning stages of the conference to include the links between popula-

tion, development and the environment. As the Duke of Edinburgh recently said:

It appears that the degradation of the natural environment is put down either to an act of God or to the irresponsibility of industrial and commercial managers. The fact is... it is due first and foremost to human population numbers and to human demands for natural resources.

The UN conference will be an expensive exercise in futility if population is left off the agenda. Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AGNEW
(Managing Director),
Agnew's,
1 Old Bond Street, W1.
August 23.

about eight people is provided: the floor is of steel and glass, durable no doubt, but ungainly to the human foot.

In the galleries there are no seats at all where the public can concentrate on looking at an exhibit or, occasionally, relax. Surely these basic amenities, comfortable seats, and less hostile flooring - in this case on the sculpture promenade - could continue to be provided in new galleries and museums without detracting from modern architectural designs.

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE CHAPLIN,
Flat 1, 76 Shooters Hill Road,
Blackheath, SE3.
August 27.

Evasive action

From Mr Lester May

Sir, The Post Office is rightly immune to the implied criticism made when "It must be lost in the post" really means "I have not written yet". A similar white lie can be used for the telephone, e.g., "I have tried a few times but there was no answer". Today, answerphones make this euphemism much less satisfactory. Apart from telling the truth (!) what phrase is best suited for the answerphone white lie?

Yours truly,
LESTER MAY,
24 Reachview Court,
Camden Town, NW1.
August 27.



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 28: By Command of The Queen, the Earl Howe (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon, upon the arrival of the King and Queen of the Hasmonean Kingdom of Jordan and welcomed their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Lady Elton has succeeded Mrs Robert de Pass as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Locke, philosopher, 1632; Oliver Wendell Holmes, physician and writer, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1809; John Leach, 1817; Maurice Maeterlinck, poet, Nobel laureate 1911, Ghent, 1862; Jean Ingres, painter, Montauban, France, 1780; Ingrid Bergman, actress, Stockholm, 1915; she died on this day, London, 1982.

DEATHS: John Lilburne, republican, Egham, Kent, 1657; Edmund Hoyle, the "father of the whist", London, 1769; Joseph Wright, painter, Derby, 1797; Brigham Young, second president of the Mormon church, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1877; Queen Astrid, consort of Leopold III of Belgium, killed in a car accident, Lucerne, 1935; Eamon De Valera, president of the Irish Republic 1959-73, Dublin, 1975; Lee Marvin, actor, 1924; Sir Peter Scott, naturalist and painter, 1989.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Jonathan Winegarten to be a Master of the Supreme Court, Chancery Division, from September 2.

Mr Alistair Robert Stachar Barnett Cress to be a District Judge in the Principal Registry of the Family Division, from September 2.

School announcements

Bromsgrove School
School convalesces today at Bromsgrove for the Midsummer Term. Julian Court is Head Boy and Katherine Jack is Head Girl. Old Bromsgrove Day is September 10. The Dramatic Society's first production of *Dido and Aeneas* is on October 9, 10 and 11, followed by *Far from the Madding Crowd* on November 13, 14 and 15. The Carol Service will be held in the Memorial Chapel on December 18, after which term ends.

Felsted School
The Autumn Term begins today. Mr A.N. Grieron, Director of Music, succeeds Mr R.A. Hay as Headmaster of Felsted. Mr A.W.S. Thomson takes up his appointment as Headmaster of Felsted on September 10. Mr Cooper (Gepp) is Head of School. The School Play will be performed in the Bury Gardens on September 26, 27 and 28. A Reunion for Old Felstedians who attended the School between 1940-1950 will be held on October 5. The Lord Butler of Saffron Walden Memorial Lecture will be delivered by the Hon Mr Justice Popplewell on November 14. The Carol Service will be held on December 13. Half term extends from October 19 to November 3 and term ends on December 14.

The Leys School, Cambridge
Autumn Term at The Leys begins today. Mr Chris Ramsay takes up his appointment as Head of Modern Languages and Mr David Nye as Head of Geography. The School Play will be performed in the Bury Gardens on September 26, 27 and 28. A Reunion for Old Felstedians who attended the School between 1940-1950 will be held on October 5. The Lord Butler of Saffron Walden Memorial Lecture will be delivered by the Hon Mr Justice Popplewell on November 14. The Carol Service will be held on December 13. Half term extends from October 19 to November 3 and term ends on December 14.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Bedford
and Miss A.J. Wynne-Williams
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr Michael Wynne-Williams, of West Sussex, and the late Tony Bedford, of Alison, younger daughter of Mr David Wynne-Williams, of Sutton Poyntz, Dorset, and Mrs Christopher Edwards, of St Peter, Jersey.

Sub-Lieutenant A. Bettan, RN
and Miss B. Pfeiffer-Harden
The engagement is announced between Bettan, eldest daughter of Roger and Beate Harden, of East Bergholt, and Andrew, youngest son of Mrs M. Bettan, of Chalfont St Giles.

Lieutenant Commander P.W.M. Carroll, RN
and Miss W.J. Price
The engagement is announced between P.W.M. Carroll, of East Harington, Somerset, and the late Mrs Jean Carroll, and Jane, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.J. Price, of Old Cleeve, Somerset.

Mr N.M. Cave
and Miss D.M. Bullough
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Maximilian, youngest son of Mr Thomas Cave, of Romsey, Hampshire, and Mrs Doris Cooper, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Deborah Marguerite, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bullough, of Perth.

Birthdays today

Sir Richard Attenborough, actor, producer and director, 68; Mrs Dorothy Carter, actress, 63; Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 60; Viscountess Mountbatten, 47; Alderman Dame Mary Donohoe, former Lord Mayor of London, 70; Sir Nigel Foulkes, former chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 72; Mr Elliott Gould, actor, 53; Professor Danyal Hay, historian, 76; Mr Lemmy Henry, comedian, 33; Mr James Hunt, racing driver, 44; Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman, Board of Governors, BBC, 68; Mr Michael Jackson, singer, 33; Lord King of Winton, 75; Mr J.H.M. Mackenzie, former chairman, London and North-East Group, 66; Mr Anthony Newton, MP, 54; Mr Norman Platt, founder, Kent Opera, 71.

English-Speaking Union

Mr David Thorp, previously a Director of 3 plc, will take over as the General of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth on the retirement of Mr David Hicks, in October.

Today's royal engagement

Prince Edward will attend a dinner to launch the Cambridge Youth Theatre's Appeal at the Holiday Inn, Cambridge, at 7.30.

Mr Peter Riddell

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Peter Riddell will be held in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London, SW1, on Sunday, September 5, 1991, at noon.

OBITUARIES

Dolores ("Dodo") Selby Bennett, née Lees, nurse with the wartime Maquis, politician and journalist, died on August 26 aged 71. She was born on April 20, 1920.

DODO Lees led an extraordinarily varied life. Born into two well-known Dorset land-owning families, the Lees and the Welds, she was determined to see more of life than the county of her birth. As a girl journalist before the war she was taken by friends to meet Hitler, but when German troops marched into Czechoslovakia in March 1939 she left her passport to Jews in Prague to enable them to escape.

During the war she worked as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse in various hospitals but for D-Day she took advantage of her family connection with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Lord Alanbrooke, to persuade Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labour, to allow her to join the French Red Cross as an ambulance driver.

She served with the 6th Colonial Infantry Regiment in the French First Army and saw service in the battle of the Colmar Gap and during the Rhine and Danube campaigns, subsequently taking part in the liberation of Dachau concentration camp and tending the inmates. In the winter of 1944-45, hearing that the Resistance fighters in the Vosges mountains were in need of medical assistance she crossed the German lines, disguised as a civilian, and lived with the Maquis in a cave. She was awarded the Croix de Guerre and Bar for rescuing wounded men under fire and in mines.

After the war, by now a well-known figure in the French Army, she was, despite her British nationality, made an officer and appointed personal staff officer to Marshal Leclerc, the dashing French soldier who had commanded French armoured units on D-Day and accepted the surrender of German-occupied Paris in August



1944. Leclerc was at that point going to Indo-China as commander-in-chief, but when he was killed in an air crash in Algeria in November 1947 Dodo Lees was seconded to the French Foreign Office and sent to a series of lecture tours in America, informing audiences in the United States of the French attitude to the Marshall Plan.

She and Hitler shared the same birthday, April 20; indeed he had had the impertinence to tell her that on that score she would make a fine

public speaker. In the event — an event Hitler could not possibly have foreseen — she joined the Labour party, much to her family's dismay, and fought Brendan Bracken in Bournemouth East in 1949. She also nearly unseated her cousin, Sir Fitzroy Maclean, another wartime hero, in Lancaster in 1951. In 1953, a week before her marriage, she was offered a safe Labour seat. However she felt that a political career was incompatible with following her future sailor husband around the

world. In 1955 following her husband's destroyer to Malta, where the influential Strickland family were her cousins, she was virtually co-opted into the government by Dom Mintoff, the prime minister.

He put her in charge of starting tourism; thus she made a contribution to the extraordinary change in Malta's standard of living. She kept a house in Gozo and remained a confidant of Mintoff and of his English wife, and played a key role in restraining many of his anti-British excesses when he was elected prime minister again in 1971. Rear-Admiral John Templeton-Cottrill, the commander of British forces in Malta, had been best man at her marriage and she was able to ensure a close, if discreet, liaison between these two men throughout the period when Mintoff was outwardly seeking to throw the British out of Malta.

Meanwhile, back in Dorset, in 1962 she played a key role in ensuring the election of the Labour candidate Guy Barnett to what had always hitherto been regarded as the safe Conservative seat of South Dorset.

In 1966 her husband, Commander "Chips" Selby Bennett, was appointed defence attaché in Venezuela, Colombia, Panama and the Dominican Republic. For the next three years she travelled extensively in Latin America, parts of which were then threatened with Cuban-based uprisings.

Dodo Lees was a highly intelligent, but also warm hearted and attractive woman who took her own line — such as fiercely defending foxhunting in Labour circles. She even canvassed against her husband in 1989 when he successfully stood for the Dorset county council — as a Conservative. She spoke many languages and regarded both France and Malta as her second countries.

She leaves her husband and two sons.

IAIN PICTON

Iain Picton, television producer and a former national chairman of the Young Conservatives, died during a walking holiday in Wales on August 9 aged 39. He was born on August 31, 1951.

IAIN Picton was a leading member of an influential group of Young Conservatives on the left of the party who kept the movement loyal to Edward Heath during the early years of Margaret Thatcher's premiership. Along with his protégés Philip Pedley, John Guthrie, and Nicholas Robinson (all of whom succeeded him as national YC chairman), he argued powerfully for a modern brand of paternalist Toryism.

Educated at Liverpool university, he was a vice-chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, from 1975 to 1976. In the 1979 General Election he stood against Cyril Smith in Rochdale. Picton was elected as Young Conservatives' chairman in 1981, the year some of his allies chose to defect to the newly-formed SDP. While declining to join them Picton was an outspoken critic of government policy.

Addressing the 1981 Conservative party conference he claimed the Thatcher riots were the result of unemployment. This provoked a stinging retort from the then employment Secretary Norman Tebbit who said he had grown up in the 1930s with an unemployed father. "He didn't riot, he got on his bike and looked for work."

From 1982 to 1986 Picton served as a Lambeth councillor, winning respect from his Conservative colleagues for his aggressive debating style which he deployed skilfully against the hard left Labour leadership of the council. Picton was involved in some intense Tory infighting but managed to remain on personally friendly terms with his political opponents both inside and outside the Conservative party. From 1984 to 1987 he chaired the Tory Reform Group, the main factional network for the so-called Tory "wets".

Picton joined London Weekend Television as a presenter for the *Walden* programme in 1988. For the last two years of his life he was a producer on the BBC TV current affairs programme *On The Record*.

Picton stood unsuccessfully in the 1987 general election for Sunderland North, but was widely expected one day to realise his ambition of becoming a Conservative MP. His belief in closer European union and his opposition to racism remained strong but there was evidence that he had become at least partially reconciled to Thatcherite economics. Shortly before his death he had agreed to write a paper for a right-wing think tank on the case for freeing the housing market.

HARLAN H. GROOMS



Harlan Hobart Grooms, a US federal district judge whose rulings marked the turning point of university desegregation in the Deep South, died on August 23 aged 90 at his home in Birmingham, Alabama. He was born in Jefferson, Kentucky, on November 7, 1900.

WHEN President Eisenhower appointed Harlan Grooms to the bench in Birmingham in 1953 it was akin to tossing Daniel to the lions. Grooms was an active Republican and there had not been a Republican judge in that part of Alabama since the first world war. More importantly, he was a strict believer in federal jurisdiction in a state determined to assert its rights. For Alabama, the American civil war had never ended.

Though his main claim to fame was the ruling to admit black students to the University of Alabama in 1963 — a decision which inspired President Kennedy to federalise the National Guard and to force

Governor George Wallace from the steps of the university — Grooms's involvement with civil rights had begun eight years before.

In 1955 he had imposed a permanent injunction on the University of Alabama, ordering the admission of a black student, Autherine Lucy. Twelve months before, the US Supreme Court had ordered the desegregation of all public schools and universities, but Alabama remained obstinate. The state legislature had ruled the Supreme Court decision null and void.

Under Grooms's order, the 26-year-old Autherine Lucy became the first black student ever admitted to the Tuscaloosa campus, though she was forbidden to stay in a dormitory or eat in university dining rooms. But her education was short-lived.

In three days of violent demonstrations white students burned crosses on the university campus. They pelted Autherine Lucy's car

with rocks, mud and rotten eggs and marched through the streets singing "Dixie". The university authorities promptly suspended the young undergraduate "for her own safety", and she went straight back to Grooms's court to accuse them of contempt and collusion in the violence. Said her NAACP counsel (later Justice

Thurgood Marshall: "That girl sure has guts."

So had Harlan Grooms. Once again he defied popular sentiment and ordered the university to reinstate Lucy. "There are some people," he said, "who feel that this court should carve out a boundary here in Northern Alabama, mount the battlements, and from the ramparts defy the Supreme Court of the United States. That this court will never do." However, he found the university trustees innocent of contempt, ruling that their suspension of Lucy had been justified in the circumstances. The trustees promptly used this as an excuse to expel the girl on the grounds that she had made "baseless accusations" against them. She never went back.

Under great strain, Grooms suffered a heart attack shortly afterwards but he soon returned to the bench. And his 1955 injunction remained in force. In 1963 when two more black students sued to enter

the University of Alabama, he used it to demand their admission. And this time, with backing from the White House, he won.

President Kennedy had been waiting for such a moment. He promptly made television speech to the nation promising sweeping civil rights legislation and took command of the Alabama National Guard from the newly-elected governor, George Wallace. Though Wallace had vowed to "stand in the school-house door" to prevent the entry of blacks, the ensuing four-hour confrontation ended without violence. The two new students, Vivian Malone and James A. Hood, entered the university and stayed, thus beginning the process of spearheading new attitudes of desegregation in the Deep South.

Judge Grooms is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Horticulture

One-point dahlia win for Aylesbury

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THERE was little to choose between the top exhibitors at the National Dahlia Society's show. Only one point divided the first and second prize winners in the affiliated societies' championship, the Herbert Brown perpetual challenge cup. It was won by the Aylesbury Chrysanthemum, Dahlia and Vegetable Society, Buckinghamshire, the winners in 1988.

Its yellow and gold decorative and cactus/semi-cactus dahlias included "Hamari Gold", a popular exhibition giant decorative. The second prize winners, the Midlands Dahlia Society, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire (which has won the trophy several times before) had its share of success

by winning the G. F. Drayson trophy for the best giant decorative bloom in the show, with the old pink "Kidd's Climax".

Another keenly contested championship class at this show, held yesterday in Westminster, was that for 12 giant dahlias. This was won by Mr A. G. Kingston, of Barnstable, Devon, who gained the A. T. Barnes perpetual challenge trophy. His exhibit included the top show cultivars "Hamari Gold", "Almond's Climax" (pink) and "Alvas Supreme" (pale yellow).

Other prestige championship classes included that for nine cultivars of giant cactus and semi-cactus dahlias. Mr H. A. Wiseman, of

Hatfield, Hertfordshire, won this, gaining the Vincent F. Parker perpetual challenge cup. He included the Jupiter cultivars "Rose" and "Coral".

The E. J. Widdowson perpetual challenge trophy for 12 cultivars of pompon dahlias was won by Mr R. Pearce, of Hallow, Hereford, and Worcester, for the third year in succession. He gained the coronation 1953 cup for the best exhibit of pompons.

The Terry Clarke perpetual challenge cup for the prestige class of five vases of decorative and cactus/semi-cactus dahlias was taken by Mr R. W. Turrell, of Highbridge, Somerset, with an eye-catching yellow and white display. There was a significant in-

crease in entries for the trophy classes. Mr L. Hill, of Sandhurst, Thirsk, won the Maurice Lord challenge cup for nine giant dahlias, and Mr R. Pearce gained the Fred Fuller perpetual trophy (for the second year in succession) for his speciality, pompon dahlias, his nine cultivars including one of the few yellow "pomps" — "Pop Willow".

The classes for new seedlings were well supported. A blood-red miniature decorative named "Barbary Trend" was judged the best new seedling in the show and gained the Jescot perpetual challenge cup for its raisers, exhibitors, Mr and Mrs B. F. Davies, of Barnsley.

Photograph, page 22

Church must harness the mass media

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A GRIEVANCE widely felt by Christians confronting a secular world is the question of why the Good News is not regarded as good news by the media. The difficulties of selling a 2,000-year-old story to a world where yesterday's events are old hat have led many a clergyman to despair.

One of the Church of England's key communicators is urging churchmen to follow the example of St Paul (Acts 17:17-18) and set up their stalls in the "market place" of the modern world, the mass media. In his study, *Faith in the Media*, the Rev Martin Field argues that these are today's centres of gossip, news and entertainment, fulfilling the role of St Paul's Roman markets.

Mr Field, communications director for the Church Urban Fund, says withdrawing from media contact can be an attractive option for clergy angered by enthusiasm for stories about vicars straying from the paths of righteousness. But retreat is not a realistic option for the church as a whole. "The church cannot abandon the media, however it feels the media have changed."

Mr Field concedes that a vicar saving souls, the quietude of his parochial flock, is unlikely to make news. "A tap-dancing curate, knitting bishop, Sunday school centenary or bishop running in the London marathon, well that's another story," he says. The media

obviously prefer controversy to consensus, personalities to principles, and immediate fast-moving events which generate good pictures.

"The outlandish, dramatic, and unusual features of church life are persistently highlighted. The daily adventure of Christian living is necessarily ignored," he says. "The religious broadcasts we have in Britain today, and consequently the image of the church that they present, are largely the result of the demands of the communication system in which they exist." The answer, he says, is that the church must work within the structure of the media to get the message across.

At the recent meeting of the general synod in York, Mr

Field organised a sleep-out of clergy, bishops and laity to publicise the Church Urban Fund and its efforts to tackle homelessness. The spectacle of clergy bedding down in the open air with gin and cigars, caught the media imagination despite celebrity sleep-outs the week before. The fund has also been in the news of late because of a decision by the Church Commissioners not to renew a £1 million grant.

"Yes, we have had a lot of coverage, but that is not really what the fund is about. We have more than 350 projects in local communities around the country, changing people's lives. That is the real news."

Faith in the Media, Hodder & Stoughton, £5.99.

Farmer expects US to return treasure

By JOHN SHAW

A SUFFOLK farmer, suing an art gallery in New York for the return of treasures stolen from his land 10 years ago, said yesterday he was optimistic that the hoard would eventually return to Britain.

Mr John Browning, of Icklingham, near Bury St Edmunds, had further talks with his solicitors and said he would probably be going to New York himself shortly to make a pre-trial statement. He expected the case to be heard in about 11 months at the Manhattan district court.

"Legal proceedings are going ahead apace," he said. "We are taking depositions and although it is complicated I am very optimistic. I would not have pursued it otherwise."

A total of 16 second century bronzes were looted from a protected site on his land and some subsequently turned up at the Ariadne gallery on Madison Avenue, New York. They included a six-inch high studded silver chalice which was offered to the Getty museum at Malibu, California, for £600,000.

A long-running campaign to retrieve the treasures has won wide support in the museum world but he believes it has been hindered by government refusal to ratify the 1970 UNESCO convention prohibiting the illicit import and export of cultural property.

Mr Browning is represented by the law firm of Andrews and Kurth in Washington. It has already acted for the Cyprus government in the recovery of ancient mosaics which a dealer in Texas was trying to sell for \$20 million, and for the German authorities in the recovery of treasures looted by servicemen from what was East Germany. "This firm is highly experi-

enced in this kind of case and is acting for me on a contingency basis which means that if we lose I pay limited expenses but if we win they do very nicely," he said.

"This is only the fourth time they have ever taken on a case on these terms so I feel very fortunate indeed. It is a major law firm and I am getting tremendous co-operation in the States but some whatsoever in this country from the Department of the Environment and English Heritage under whose jurisdiction this site comes."

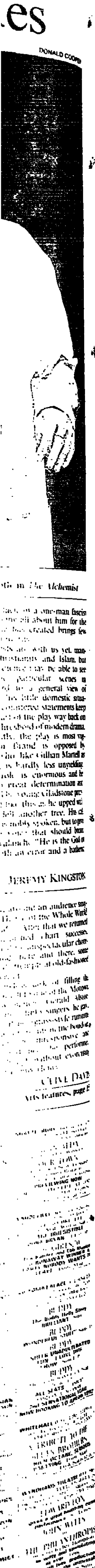
"I am absolutely appalled at attitudes to our heritage in this country. I am doing the government's dirty work for it. They say it has not been proved these things belong to me."

James Archer's decorative paintings were in strong demand among buyers in the £1,097,745 picture section of Sotheby's two-day sale of art and antiques at Gloucesters Hotel, Perthshire.

A typical lot of three pretty girls playing cards in a period interior entitled "Hearts are Trumps" set a new £28,600 record for the artist (estimate £15,000-£20,000). The previous record for an Archer (1823-1904), born in Scotland, was £19,500 in April 1988.

The next lot by the same artist with the unbearable ingredients of a dog, a girl and a Moorland, background, a study also used as the catalogue cover, went to £26,400 (est £10,000-£15,000). It was sold for £150 in 1955. Both paintings were bought by a private Scottish collector.

The Fine Arts Society paid £26,400 for a landscape by James McIntosh Patrick, an artist still active in Scotland. The pictures made half the final total of £2,074,787.



BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News
6.05 World Athletics Championships. Desmond Lynam presents further live coverage from Tokyo. The 100m (9.25) Women's 200m, second round; (10.10) Women's 100m hurdles semi-final; (10.40) Men's 110m hurdles final; (11.00) Women's 400m hurdles final; (11.20) Men's 3,000m steeplechase semi-final; (12.20) Men's 400m final; (12.35) Men's 5,000m, first round. The commentators are David Coleman, Paul Dickinson, Brendan Foster and Stuart Storey. Including at 10.55, 12.00 News and weather, regional news and weather 12.55 Regional News and weather

1.00 One O'Clock News. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax)
1.50 Macgregor's Scotland: Moffat to Traquair. Jimmie Macgregor continues his walk along the Southern Upland Way.
2.20 Film: Till the End of Time (1948, b/w). Solid and thoughtful drama in which three men return from the second world war and try to adjust to civilian life. One of them, Robert Mitchum, becomes involved with a young war widow (Dorothy McGuire). Directed by Edward Dmytryk
4.00 Cartoon
4.10 The All New Popeye Show. Cartoon double bill 4.30 Alfano's Bonzo: The Mouse Project. The second of a six-part comedy-drama about a boy with incredible swapping powers (r) 4.55 Newsround 5.05 Second Breakers. The last programme in the series announces the winner of the Guinness Book of Records cover competition and forms the world's longest chorus line in aid of Children. Presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker (r)
5.35 Neighbours. (r) (Cee-fax). Northern Ireland: Sportsweek: Inside Ulster
6.00 One O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional news magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax)
7.00 Top of the Pops. Introduced by Mark Goodier (with stereo on Radio 1). (Cee-fax)
7.30 Goodies. Drama with the residents of Albert Square. (Cee-fax)
8.00 World Athletics Championships. Desmond Lynam and David Moorcroft present highlights of today's competition
8.30 The Little White Lies. The versatile comedy actress does various guises in a final sequence of sketches. (Cee-fax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buck. Regional News and weather

BBC 2

8.00 World Athletics Championships. Live coverage from Tokyo, including the start of the decathlon and the women's 200m
8.50 Over the Top. The Island Games. Animated adventure with the duckbill platypus (r) 9.00 Defenders of the Earth. Cartoon (r) 9.30 Hartbeat. Tony Hart illustrates new approaches to art (r) (Cee-fax) 10.00 Stopped and Tidyup. Cartoon (r) 10.05 Playdays 10.25 Celebrity Double Date (r) 11.00 Junior Pot Black. The second semi-final of the junior snooker tournament
11.40 Film: Miranda (1947, b/w). Amiable comedy-fantasy starring Griffith Jones as a doctor, whose wife (Gweneth Hughes) and nurse (Margaret Rutherford) begin to suspect something fishy about his new patient (Glynis Johns). Directed by Ken Annakin
1.00 World Athletics Championships. Further live coverage of the men's 5,000m, first round
1.25 Goodies. Drama with the residents of Albert Square. (Cee-fax)
1.40 Goodies. Drama with the residents of Albert Square. (Cee-fax)
2.00 News and weather 3.50 News and weather, regional news and weather
6.00 Film: The Iron Petticoat (1956). Limp satirical comedy starring Katherine Hepburn as a Soviet pilot and staunch Communist who, forced to live in West Germany, is taken under the wing of American captain Bob Hope. Directed by Ralph Thomas
7.30 Newsweek. The Customer Is Always Right. Brian Redhead focuses on five British and American companies which place the emphasis on customer service. Walter: Gardening Together

ITV

8.00 TV-am
9.25 News. Richard Madeley hosts the holiday quiz 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The New Adventures of He-Man. Cartoon 10.25 Just for the Record. Record-breaking achievements 10.50 ITN News headlines 10.55 The Adventures of the Gummi Bears. Disney cartoon (r) 11.25 OX Tales. Cartoon 11.55 Thames News and weather 12.00 Cartoon. Mickey Mouse 12.10 The Riddlers. Puppet fun (r)
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TELEVISION AND RADIO 21

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Lloyd's may face US legal battle

A GROUP of Lloyd's names in America who have suffered heavy underwriting losses are considering bringing an action against Lloyd's for violation of American securities laws (Jonathan Prynn writes).

The names argue that Lloyd's has systematically violated the 1933 Securities Act by offering securities investments to American individuals without properly registering with the SEC. They are even looking at the possibility of an action under the provisions of America's organised crime laws because of alleged "massive violation of anti-fraud legislation".

A spokesman for the names said that an action would be launched within 30 days if enough names could be persuaded to support it. About 25 have agreed so far and more are coming into the group each day, according to Dale Jenkins, one of the potential litigants. Mr Jenkins said about 50 names would make the action viable. The litigants would seek to recover all their losses at Lloyd's.

Mr Jenkins has been underwriting since 1982 but has suffered £200,000 losses in recent years through his involvement with the troubled Feltrin and Gooda Walker syndicates. He is also a name on the Warlow open year.

A. McAlpine fall

Alfred McAlpine, the construction group that has shed 400 jobs in the last year, made pre-tax profits of £700,000 for the six months to end-April, down from £5 million. Turnover fell from £299 million to £254 million and earnings per share fell from 6.4p to 2.8p. The interim dividend is maintained at 4.5p. *Times, page 25*

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6885 (+0.0090)
German mark
2.9405 (+0.0014)
Exchange index
90.8 (+0.1)

Bank of England official
close (Apr)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2053.9 (+3.9)
FT-SE 100
2624.2 (+4.4)
New York Dow Jones
3037.34 (+11.18)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
21621.63 (-19.67)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
ES 345p (+8p)
Fogas 215p (+10p)
Hain 145p (+9p)
Ladbroke 273p (+7p)
News Corp 445p (+15p)
Thomson Corp 745p (+10p)
Kingfisher 577p (+8p)
Smith Barney 700p (+9p)
Trafalgar House 845p (+9p)
Wellcome 745p (+9p)
Capital Radio 201p (+7p)
Bass 584p (+7p)
General 355p (+9p)
Leigh 312p (+12p)
J Smurfit 612p (+8p)
Dunelm 845p (+17p)
FALLS:
Jardine Matheson 242p (-12p)
ADT 480p (-21p)
Canton Comm 475p (-7p)
BIC 445p (-8p)
Closing Prices...Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 11%
3-month interbank 10 3/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2-10 1/4%
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.33-5.32%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.6885
€: DM 1.9405
S: Sfr 2.9405
E: FF 16.6370
Y: Yen 230.05
I: Index 50.5
ECU 10.86228 SDP 20.794736
E: ECU 1.432051 S: SDP 1.258279
London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$355.30 pm \$354.50
close \$354.20-354.70 (2208.75-210.25)
New York:
Comex \$354.15-354.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) \$19.95 bid (\$20.05)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.8 July (1987-100)

Enquiry sought into alleged irregularities found by internal review

Brent Walker chairman calls in fraud office

By MATTHEW BOND AND ANGELA MACKAY

LORD Kindersley, chairman of Brent Walker, called in the Serious Fraud Office yesterday to investigate a number of alleged irregularities unearthed by an internal review at the leisure and property group.

Metropolitan Police officers attached to the SFO arrived at Brent Walker's headquarters in Piccadilly, London, at 9.30am and spent most of the day examining documents. A large number of documents were later removed.

The police visit followed a preliminary meeting last week between SFO detectives and Brent Walker executives at which the findings of the internal review were discussed. The SFO is understood to have opened a file on Brent Walker several months ago.

The enquiry is believed to centre on four main areas of Brent Walker's business. The company refused to elaborate, but independent sources suggested that the company's film and property interests were two of the businesses under investigation.

In the film industry, Brent Walker is best known for its 1987 acquisition of Goldcrest, maker of *Gandhi* and *Chariots of Fire*, which it bought for £5 million and sold for just over £25 million last year.

In property, Brent Walker's single biggest acquisition was of the Trocadero complex at Piccadilly which it bought in 1987 for £90 million. Three months later, it was sold to Walker Power, a joint venture between Brent Walker and Power Corporation, for £100 million.

The fraud office investigation came as a surprise to George Walker, the company's founder and former chairman, who was stripped of his remaining role in May. Mr Walker spent the morning at his London home before leaving by a back entrance to avoid journalists. A spokesman said Mr Walker had not received notice of the SFO's arrival and had no idea about the nature of the investigation.

D J Freeman, Mr Walker's firm of solicitors, said later: "Mr Walker has no knowledge of a Serious Fraud Squad investigation into the affairs of Brent Walker but assures us he will co-operate with any proper investigation." Although he declined to comment about what had prompted him to call in the SFO, Lord Kindersley made it clear that the police investigation would not threaten Brent Walker's £1.5 billion refinancing plan. This was confirmed by Standard Chartered Bank, which heads Brent Walker's main syndicate of 47 banks. "All the banks were aware that there was a possibility that the SFO would become involved in Brent Walker, so this is not new news," a spokesman said.

He added that all 47 banks were committed in principle to the refinancing and that final agreement would be signed in two to three weeks time. However, other sources close to the refinancing indicated that a police investigation would delay the process, because of the difficulties in including all relevant information in circulars.

The internal review of Brent Walker's operations was carried out by Lord Kindersley, who replaced Mr Walker as chairman in January; Nicholas Ward, who became managing director in April; John Leach, who replaced Wilf Aquilina as finance director in January; and Ken Scobie, who became chief executive six weeks ago.

Last month, the chairman warned directors in an internal memorandum of their potential personal liability if the company collapses. The memo said Freshfields was advising on the position of directors if the company had traded while insolvent.

The arrival of the SFO is thought to have delayed the publication of Brent Walker's report and accounts for 1990, due to be published yesterday. In May, Brent Walker announced attributable losses of £247 million. The company offered no explanation of the £115 million extraordinary loss made by the group's media division, or the £377 million reduction in property values that cut the company's reserves to just £91 million.

Although Brent Walker has spent most of this year struggling to avoid liquidation, the agreement in principle to the company's refinancing appeared to have secured its future.



Gathering evidence: documents are taken from Brent Walker's London headquarters

Comment, page 25

1985	Brent Walker floated on stock market valued at £34m with option to buy Brighton Marina
May	
1987	
Jun 29	Buys Loughbo casinos for £128m
Aug 24	Buys Goldcrest for £5m
Sep 7	Buys Trocadero for £90m
1988	
Feb 21	Buys 385 pubs for £80m
Sep 5	Buys Elstree studios for £32m
Nov 28	Buys Whyte & Mackay and four vineyards for £180m
Dec 9	Buys Tolly Cobbold and Cameron breweries for £239m
1989	
Mar 9	Sells Crockfords for £50m
Sep 5	Buys William Hill for £685m
1990	
Feb 20	Whyte & Mackay sold for £160m
Sep 16	Seeks £160m rebate on William Hill deal
Nov 30	£103m bond issue completed
1991	
Jan 12	George Walker steps down as chairman
May 29	Company announces attributable loss of £247m and £600m of write downs
May 30	George Walker stripped of executive role
Jul 2	Reconstruction plan put to banks
Jul 18	George Walker defeats move to remove him as a director.
Jul 18	Ken Scobie becomes chief executive
Aug 27	SFO called in

Unpleasant surprise for bondholders

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE Serious Fraud Office move surprised Brent Walker's bondholders, who are on the verge of rebellion over the rescue package vital for the company's survival.

Bondholders, who bought £102 million of paper last November, must approve the rescue before bankers can proceed with the refinancing.

The key bondholders are George Walker, Hambros Bank - the company's financial adviser - Louth and Michael Smurfit, the Irish businessman. He not only invested £15 million of his firm's cash but also took £10 million worth of stock privately. Like Louth, he was keen to buy the bonds to obtain a foothold in case of a fire sale and is concerned about the rapid fall in the value of the bonds.

Mr Smurfit was unavailable for comment but an adviser said he was aware the fraud office had been called in, but

"we have no details and no comment". Louth, with just under £5 million of the bonds, said it was surprised by the board's move to call in the SFO. The Walker family holds about £27 million of the bonds and has the right to put options on another £20 million.



Smurfit wanted foothold

National Institute forecasts slow recovery and 3m jobless

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE economy may well have passed its low point, but the climb out of recession, beginning almost imperceptibly this quarter, will be slow and hesitant, with unemployment continuing to rise to a peak of three million next year, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research says in its latest review.

Although the quarterly forecast gives fresh support to the government view that recovery will start this year, the politically independent in-

stitute makes clear that a return to trend growth will only come in the second quarter next year. Emphasising the scope for errors in forecasting, it says "rapid recovery next year is quite possible, but so, too, is a year of no growth at all".

On unemployment, which the institute says deserves to be "top of the policy agenda", the forecast is for a peak next year of three million, or 10 per cent of the workforce, up from the 2.75 million peak predicted

in May. Its medium-term prediction points to unemployment just below 10 per cent for the next few years.

Confederation of British Industry economists last week painted a similar picture of "statistical recovery" by the end of this year, with more significant upturn delayed until next year. The Bank of England's latest assessment was that the economy is still "bumping along the bottom".

The institute, which is funded by the government,

predicts the aftermath of the recession will dog Britain for most of next year, even though output will be rising. Employment will continue to fall in most industries. Bankruptcies, repossession and bad debts will stay high.

Some industries, especially those related to building or fixed investment, are expected to experience worsening recession. Others, particularly export-oriented, should see a return of relative prosperity.

The institute forecasts a fall in the output measure of the gross domestic product of 1.9 per cent this year, against the 2.2 per cent fall predicted in May, with 1992 growth set slightly weaker at 1.7 per cent. This is broadly in line with Treasury forecasts.

But, like the CBI, the institute believes the recovery will be export-led, as exports of goods and services grow 6 per cent next year after an 0.5 per cent rise this year.

The consumer-led recovery anticipated by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has been ruled out by the institute because of a smaller-than-expected 0.7 per cent spending fall this year, half that forecast in May. Consumer expenditure next year is consequently only expected to rise 0.6 per cent, instead of the 1.7 per cent previously forecast.

Annual inflation is expected to come down to 4.1 per cent by the end of the year, slow further to 2.9 per cent in the final quarter of next year, and remain slightly below German inflation for several years. But only a further half-point cut in base rates is assumed by next summer, by which time the government has to call a general election.

The commerce department inflation indicators gave mixed guidance. The price deflator was revised to 4.2 per cent from 3.9 per cent, but its fixed-price version, considered a more reliable reflection of price movement, was steady at 3 per cent.

Experts disagree on pace of recovery

US revises itself back to recession

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE return to growth in America in the second quarter has been converted into a small decline, the third successive quarter of shrinking output, after a sharp revision of the official figures.

The gross national product, which was last month reported to have risen by an annualised 0.4 per cent, now shows a fall of 0.1 per cent for the period. The previous quarter saw a slump of 2.8 per cent.

The dollar fell against main currencies on the commerce department announcement, with foreign exchange dealers seeing it as a pointer to lower American interest rates. Wall Street share prices were little changed despite expectations of a slight upward revision of growth data.

Some analysts saw the revision as evidence that the American recovery from recession will be one of the feeblest recorded, or that the economy might dip again before recovering. But others

said the latest indicators suggest a strong pickup in the current quarter.

The commerce department said the second quarter was weaker than initially estimated because of lower than expected consumer spending and continued destocking. Consumer spending was up 2.8 per cent in the quarter, but had been revised down substantially. After-tax company profits fell 1.6 per cent, the poorest showing since the third quarter last year.

Angus Armstrong, economist at Morgan Grenfell, said the GNP revision was "politically important", as it will increase the pressure on the Federal Reserve to ease the monetary reins. He did not, however, expect the Fed to move until the fourth quarter. Second-quarter figures are due for revision in a month.

Mr Armstrong expects the further reduction in stocks in the second quarter will lead to a stronger rebound in the third

quarter, as industry has to respond faster to rising demand. Trade figures this week suggest American industry was exporting its way out of recession in the absence of a vigorous upturn in home demand. But the anticipated slowdown in Germany and Japan is likely to reduce the scope for sustained export growth to fuel recovery.

With American consumers in cautious mood, unemployment still rising, and the construction sector in deep trouble, domestic demand is widely expected to remain subdued compared with previous rebounds.

The commerce department inflation indicators gave mixed guidance. The price deflator was revised to 4.2 per cent from 3.9 per cent, but its fixed-price version, considered a more reliable reflection of price movement, was steady at 3 per cent.

Yeltsin move clouds policy outlook

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

THE future of the Soviet Union's economic system was thrown into further uncertainty when Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, demanded a right of veto over the Soviet Union's foreign exchange operations.

The Russian Information Agency yesterday published an instruction by Mr Yeltsin to the Russian authorities to take over all the Russian-based branches of the Soviet finance ministry, Gosbank, the central bank, and Vneshekonbank, the foreign trade bank, from September 15.

The move, if implemented, could complicate the debate on the future economic structure of the country, and especially the issue of responsibility over macroeconomic policy. Mr Yeltsin has also instructed the Russian interior ministry to resume responsibility for precious metals and stones.

A delegation from Gosbank is expected in London next week for discussions with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Andrei Zverev, acting head of Gosbank, told Tass, the Soviet news agency: "The situation in the country is serious. Gosbank is planning to take steps to develop business contacts with leading foreign financial organisations."

The EBRD is constrained in its Soviet operations, but its shareholders' representatives will consider next month whether to remove a ceiling limiting its exposure to the Soviet Union to 6 per cent of its capital. This would allow the bank to step up its activities in the USSR considerably.

Mr Zverev also said a delegation will contact the International Monetary Fund in Washington. At last month's G7 summit in London, the Soviet Union was promised associated IMF status, whereby it would qualify for technical assistance but not large aid. But it is now expected that officials will seek to prepare the ground for eventual full IMF membership.

□ The World Bank has approved a \$30 million loan in technical aid for the modernisation of Soviet banking.

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Harland and Kawasaki poised for joint venture

By ROBERT RODWELL

HARLAND and Wolff, the Belfast ship-builder, and Kawasaki, the Japanese group, have agreed in principle to a joint venture to manufacture marine engines in the city.

H&W, which won a £230 million order for six huge bulk carriers earlier this week, is anxious to resume the position it occupied in the marine engine field for decades, but which ended when its in-house engine works produced

its last powerplant in 1985. The closure of the Queen's Island engine works, which is now derelict, ended H&W's position as the last fully integrated ship-building facility in the United Kingdom with its own heavy marine engineering capabilities.

H&W was, as a result, unable to bid to build the engines for the six bulk carriers, a contract which will be thrown open to international competition.

The proposed joint venture, which is likely to employ about 300 skilled workers, would give Kawasaki a foothold in Europe for the post-1992 single market.

Burncoast and Wain, the Danish company that licensed H&W's former engine works to build its diesel engine designs for many years, is also understood to be involved in the discussions. This licence could be re-activated if the Ulster-Japanese joint venture goes ahead.

One issue still to be resolved before a decision is made is the location of the proposed plant. The potential partners are keen that it should be within the H&W complex at Queen's Island in Belfast.

The decision will depend, however, on government grant aid through the Northern Ireland Industrial Board.

Richard Needham, the Northern Ireland Office economy minister, said that he has been trying to steer the project to Larne in Co Antrim, 25 miles from the Belfast shipyard. GEC-Alsthon is about to close its heavy electrical engineering plant in Larne and a new tenant is being sought.

Mr Needham, however, admits that his efforts to persuade the potential partners to look at Larne are unlikely to be successful.

Flextech meets forecast

FLEXTECH has met its full-year profit forecast, made at the time of a £6.8 million rights issue in June. Pre-tax profits rose from £4.95 million to £6.2 million in the year to end-March.

As expected, there is a single dividend of 1.5p for the year, up from 1p, payable from earnings per share of 12.01p (10.21p).

Although the company has diversified into cable television and communications, its profits still come from oil services. Espro Group, a subsidiary, benefited from stable oil prices, which encouraged exploration in the North Sea and overseas.

Spanish sell Hambros stake

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, the Spanish bank, has sold its £43.3 million stake in Hambros, the merchant bank, after the collapse of their European collaboration agreement last April.

Warburg Securities placed BBV's 5.7 per cent stake at 274p a share, compared with 288p in the market. BBV also sold 16.7 million Hambros convertible preference shares at 116p each.

Braime jumps

TF & JH Braime (Holdings), the presswork and lift components company, reported an increase in pre-tax profits to £283,410 (£70,403) for the half year to end-June. The interim dividend is increased from 1.75p to 2.25p.

Explaura issue

Explaura Holdings' £3.8 million one-for-four rights issue was 24.5 per cent taken up. Inco Europe increased its stake in Explaura to 9.1 per cent by taking up 21.8 per cent of the issue, which was fully underwritten.



Counting cost of borrowing: John Clegg (centre), Wace's group chief executive, and Frans ten Bos, chairman (right), with Brian Dudley, managing director, UK and European operations

Wace suffers from debt costs

PRE-TAX profits at the Wace Group, the pre-press services group, fell sharply from £12.27 million to £8.11 million in the first half of this year, reflecting higher borrowing costs.

Earnings per share were 5.6p, compared with 11.9p

The interim dividend is held at 2.25p a share. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, Wace's broker, has reduced its profit forecast by £6 million to £23 million for the 12 months to end-December, compared with reported profits of £26.5 million

for last year, but rising to £30 million in the following year.

A maiden contribution from Parkway, acquired in August last year, helped to steady operating profits at £11.52 million (£12.08 million). But interest charges rose

sharply from £185,000 to £2.41 million. There was an extraordinary charge of £852,000 against losses on the disposal and closure of parts of the typesetting operations.

Tempsis, page 25

Dissident group attacks rescue plan for Holmes

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

HOLMES Protection, the debt-plagued American security group, has unveiled a rescue plan but failed to prevent a showdown next month with shareholders who want to dismiss the board.

Eric Kohn, a former Holmes director, now leading dissatisfied shareholders and claiming he speaks for more than 50 per cent of the votes, said: "There is nothing really different to the agreement they [the board] got from the lenders last June, except they

have given away security over assets and gained 18 months to settle the crown jewels."

Holmes, which trades entirely on the east coast of America despite its listing in London, owes \$61 million to six insurance companies and one fund management group.

Under the plan, the lenders will gain a 33 per cent stake by cancelling \$15 million of debt and repayment of other loan notes at below par. They will take security on some assets and the sale proceeds from all Holmes' businesses, except in New York, within 18 months. The lenders will cut interest

rates charged to Holmes from 10.72 per cent to 8 per cent and extend the repayment period on \$25 million of borrowings until March 1993.

The debt-for-equity swap of \$15 million converts to 24 million shares at 26p each. They were trading at 64p, up 4p, last night.

Mr Kohn said: "This plan is a proposed liquidation by incumbent management which benefits the lenders and the incumbent management. The lenders are squeezing as much as they can up front because they lack confidence in the current management."

Tom Mayer, the Holmes chairman, told shareholders in a letter yesterday: "Your new board has achieved a great deal in just 11 months and we believe that many of the management and operational problems that we inherited from our predecessors are in the process of being solved."

Mr Kohn's investor group, backed by Scottish Amicable insurance group, will seek to install Sir Ian MacGregor, the former British Steel and Coal Board chairman, and Ms Barbara Thomas, a former executive with the Securities and Exchange Commission, on the Holmes board at a special meeting on September 24.

Mr Mayer gave a warning that a failure to approve the plan could mean a fresh restructuring plan more favourable to the lenders, or Holmes having to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Cookson in £18m asset sale

By COLIN CAMPBELL

COOKSON Group yesterday took another significant step toward reducing its debt burden to below £200 million gross by the financial year-end in December with the sale for £18.4 million of its 80.4 per cent stake in Cookson Plibrico, Japan, to Asahi Glass Company.

Richard Oster, Cookson's managing director, said that in the past six to nine months asset sales had brought gross debt down from well over £700 million to around £200 million.

Plibrico Japan is an important supplier of monolithic refractories to the Japanese and other Far Eastern markets and, in recent years, has diversified into industrial and waste incinerators.

The sale of Plibrico Japan is in line with the new management's policy of concentrating on core interests, and on fewer entities.

Over the past year, Cookson's workforce has been trimmed from 15,000 to 13,000. Greater attention has been paid to improving cash flow and productivity, and on an annualised basis, £30 million of overheads have been eliminated.

"We do not wish always to be thought of as 'the debt-laden Cookson group'," Mr Oster said. He hinted that further asset sales could follow soon.

Cookson shares yesterday rose 6p to 122p.

No dividend at Bredero

BREDERO Properties is passing its interim dividend (1.2p) after a poor first half to end-June, during which £2.3 million of provisions were made against profits.

The company blamed a weaker property market for the pre-tax losses of £1.27 million in the first half, compared with a profit of £1.01 million previously.

Mersey loses cash in BCCI

THE Mersey Docks and Harbour Company has made full provision in its latest interim report for £700,000 that it had deposited with the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Pre-tax profits were £5.46 million for the six months to end-June (£4.86 million). The interim dividend is 2p a share (1.7p).

Cairn loss grows

CAIRN Energy, whose shares have fallen from 330p to 109p in 12 months, said it was exploring ways in which "greater recognition can be given to the underlying asset value". The independent oil and gas company reported a net loss of £1.23 million for the six months to end-June (£582,000 loss), reflecting lower gas prices in America.

Losses increased to 5.04p a share (2.81p loss). The company said the outlook for the American gas market was "very weak in the short term".

Dow in early advance

New York
BLUE chips achieved a mild gain in morning trading as the market rebounded from two days of consolidation. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 7 points to 3,033.16. Hugh Johnson, the chief investment officer at First Albany Corporation, said: "It looks like a recovery from (Tuesday's) poor market."

□ Tokyo - Prices closed mixed in moderate trading. The Nikkei index was down 19.67 points, or 0.09 per cent, to 21,621.63. Turnover was an estimated 250 million shares, compared with 187 million on Tuesday. (Reuters)

STOCK MARKET

Suspicious City fears an end to record run

HARD-PRESSED dealers had to contend with some large lines of stock coming on offer which confirmed the City's suspicions that the equity market's record-breaking run may have temporarily come to an end. Despite the fluctuations seen last week in the wake of Red Monday, there are considerable profits to be had by investors as the three-week account draws to a close.

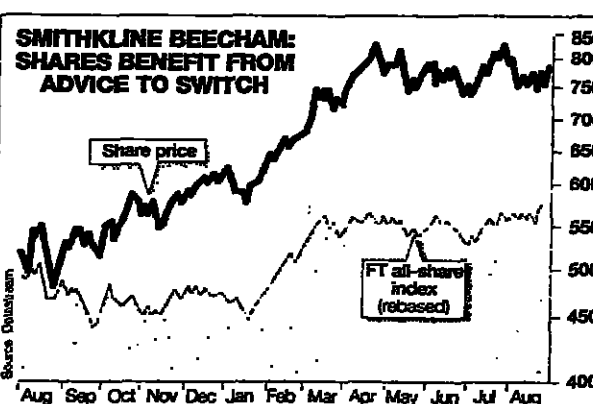
Investors are also worried that there is a queue of companies forming to raise funds, which may drain resources.

As a result, there were some large blocks of shares changing hands. Hambros Bank held steady at 288p despite almost 6 per cent of the company going through the market. Warburg Securities, the broker, placed 9.7 million shares with various institutions at 271p a share, lifting total turnover yesterday to 19 million. The stake belonged to Banco Bilbao Vizcaya of Spain and is the second large holding to change hands this

year. Recently, Balica, the Danish investment company, unloaded its 14 per cent holding after attempts at negotiating a series of cooperation deals with Hambros ended in failure. The group's biggest independent shareholder is now the Istituto Bancario Sanpaolo di Torino of Italy, which still holds a 14 per cent stake.

BICC, the cables and engineering group, fell 8p to 446p as one broker failed to place a line of 1.2 million shares. They may still be around today. Last week, BICC revealed a 34 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £66 million after a collapse in profits at its Australian division. But the group managed to maintain the dividend and the shares rallied strongly the next day. Analysts are now tipping them for a strong recovery.

In late trading, there were reports of 2.5 million shares in Marks and Spencer being offered around as the price



slipped 1p to 287p. There was also talk that one broker was trying to find a home for 1 million Wellcome shares, 9p better at 745p. Meanwhile, the FT-SE 100 index closed below its best of the day with a rise of 4.4 at 2,624.2 despite a confident start to trading on Wall Street. Dealers said that prices lost some of their momentum

attracting fresh support because of the worldwide economic revival. Hoare Govett, the broker, also fuelled the rise with a recommendation to switch to Glaxo, unchanged at £13.40, after its recent record-breaking run into SmithKline. James Culverwell, an analyst at Hoare, believes that we may have seen the best of Glaxo for the time being and is urging clients to take profits. Astra, the Swedish pharmaceuticals group, reported an impressive rise in profits earlier this week.

Losec, Astra's anti-ulcer drug, is regarded as the biggest rival to Glaxo's best-selling Zantac. Hoare has also taken a shine to Reckitt & Colman, the food and household products group, up 1p to 685p. The group is expected to show a modest improvement in pre-tax profits from £113 million to £123.5 million. But Hoare says it is looking for a stronger performance in the second half. Alfred McAlpine, the construction group, fell 7p to 245p after reporting a drop

in first-half profits from £5 million to £700,000. The group blamed the recession which badly hit its housing division.

Reduced profits also left Wace, the pre-press group, 7p lower at 251p. Brent Walker fell 1p to 204p after it called in the Serious Fraud Office to investigate certain aspects of the group.

ADT, the security services and car auctions group, fell 21p to 480p on further consolidation of its plans to halve group debts of \$1 billion in the next 18 months. The move follows a sharp drop in profits of this group, which is based in Bermuda.

Continued stock shortages combined with French support to lift Euro Disney by another 27p to £13.85. Euro Disneyland has been overshadowed lately by disputes between the company and various contractors which led to fears that the project may be delayed. But the company remains confident it will open on schedule.

MICHAEL CLARK

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	Dow Jones	3037.34 (+11.18)
	S&P Composite	383.95 (+0.89)
	Nikkei Average	21621.63 (-19.67)
Hong Kong:		3898.14 (-13.82)
	FT-SE 100	2624.2 (+4.4)
	FT-SE Euro 100	1121.03 (+2.12)
Amsterdam:		913.3 (+0.1)
Sydney:		1541.2 (+1.1)
Frankfurt:	DAX	1647.50 (+0.35)
Brussels:		5640.32 (+0.17)
Geneva:		483.71 (-0.25)
Zurich:	SWX Gen	534.9 (-0.5)
London:	FT-A All-Share	1299.10 (+1.99)
	FT-1000	1386.19 (+2.22)
	FT Gold Miners	181.1 (-0.9)
	FT Fixed Interest	94.89 (same)
	FT Govt Secs	85.80 (+0.02)
Bargains:		28568
SEAG Volume		514.9m
UK (Datastream)		125.82 (+0.43)
Denotes midday trading price		

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after a programme trade by County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, which helped to boost turnover to 514 million shares. The FT index of 30 shares firmed 3.9 at 2,053.9. Government securities enjoyed a better day, cheered by a stronger performance in the American bond market. Prices at the longer end were left

ers for £604 million last week, slipped another 3p to 575p. SmithKline Beecham advanced 8p to 790p, helped by overnight support from Wall Street, with dealers in London waking to find a large buying order left overnight on the Battery March trading link with New York. Analysts claim that SmithKline is

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Back to the brink at Brent Walker

COMMENT

Brent Walker's books have been trampled through so frequently by armies of bankers, lawyers and accountants lately that it would have been astonishing if even the most minor irregularity had gone unnoticed. The need for such intense scrutiny arose quite simply from a deal too far, the acquisition of William Hill, the bookmaker, from GrandMet. Though Hill is a strong, cash generative business, the debt incurred in the purchase added to a burden of repayment that Brent Walker could not sustain through the course of the recession.

The irony will not be lost on Brent Walker's luckless shareholders, who will now be looking to the bookmaking business as one of the group's core activities in the hope that along with the group's pub chain, it can re-establish some value for the equity in the medium term.

But the key issue this morning is whether or not the fraud investigation initiated by the company will affect the much delayed refinancing now becoming urgently more essential to stave off a receivership. The first

point to make is that the new team assembled to rescue Brent Walker, Lord Kindersley, Ken Scobie, Nicholas Ward and John Leach, had no alternative option but to trigger an outside investigation. Earlier work by accountants Touche Ross carried out in connection with the refinancing provided a platform for further essential enquiries. These revealed uncertainty over the way that certain transactions had been reported and a distinct lack of information about other deals. The band of rescuers may have been tempted to dismiss suspected irregularities as past history, but only at the risk of becoming personally liable for a cover-up. Lord Kindersley warned as much in a letter to fellow directors in July before appointing leading City solicitors Freshfields to monitor the position and advise on matters related to possible insolvency.

Yesterday, Brent Walker's Bankers were sanguine about a successful completion of the refinancing. Though serious enough to warrant a call to the Serious Fraud Office the issues thrown up in the latest internal investigations are described by insiders as historic and with no direct relevance to the group's future trading. But these days, bankers are nervous and Brent Walker's 47 lenders may need further assurances and further time before completing.

The bondholders are less predictable. They include George Walker and his family interests, the Irish packaging group Jefferson Smurfit and Michael Smurfit personally along with Lomrho. They have seen the worth of their bonds destroyed rapidly and may well have other actions in mind. The blow will have been especially painful to Mr Smurfit who has a well deserved

reputation as one of Ireland's most successful businessmen. Last November they put up £102 million to give the group a brief but vital financial lifeline. Outsiders suspected that Lomrho and Smurfit may have justified the cash injection by a belief that change was inevitable at Brent Walker and that they would have a ringside seat at any auction of Brent Walker's assets. George Walker stands to lose most if the refinancing fails at the last hurdle. His family owns about £27 million worth of the bonds.

The bondholders can easily pull down the whole refinancing, but at the cost of further financial pain to themselves. Though Mr Walker is understandably smarting at the experience of being removed as chairman of the group which he created, the result of having all his eggs in a single

basket could be disastrous if the rescue fails. The balance of probability is that they will forego execution in favour of recovery.

Export hopes

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will draw comfort from the ascendancy school of thought which is convinced that Britain's export performance over the past year can be developed to lead us out of recession. Mr Lamont has placed his trust in the consumer taking the traditional lead role. But he will find a useful boost to confidence in the rival creed that sees upturn driven by sales of British goods and services abroad.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research has now joined the swelling congregation of believers in salvation by export. It forecasts a

healthy 6.9 per cent rise in volume exports of manufactures next year, up from 1.8 per cent growth this year, keeping Britain's share of world trade broadly constant. The institute assumes that growth in world trade will pick up to 6 per cent from 4 per cent this year, as America recovers. Wisely, it voices caution about how British firms will behave once home demand picks up. Export prices have been weaker than expected, which suggests profit margins have been painfully pared.

Yet, while hopes for recovery are being increasingly pinned on exports, all the signs point to slowdown in Western Europe and Japan. Doubts persist about American recovery too. Germany, which absorbs nearly a quarter of our exports to the European Community, our biggest market, is slowing down alarmingly. All Europe will feel the chill.

No longer able, post-ERM entry, to rely on a weaker pound to save them, British exporters face harsher times. Mr Lamont might be safer backing the consumer.

Why Net Book Agreement catches more readers

With WH Smith results due today, Sir Simon Hornby chairman, speaks out for the NBA

COMMON sense, as well as the laws of economics, would support the statement, "If book prices were lower, more books would be sold". When we start to explore its implications, however, agreement vanishes.

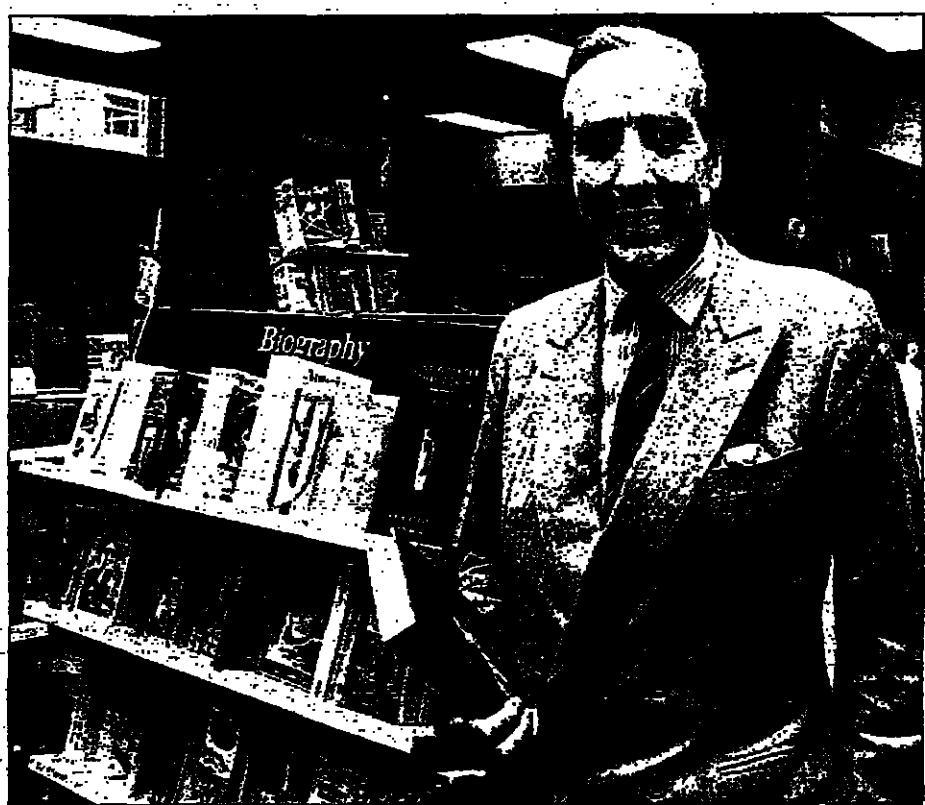
Are book prices too high? Terry Maher, chairman of Pentos, has long asserted that they are and that the Net Book Agreement is to blame. Neither proposition, however, holds much water.

Between 1981 and 1990, consumer book prices increased at the same rate as inflation. Only when school, university and professional books are added does the inflation of book prices exceed the RPI, by 9 per cent. The irony is, of course, that many of these books have traditionally been published non-net (outside the NBA) and, therefore, at prices that may be discounted.

Nor does there appear to be widespread dissatisfaction with prices on the part of book buyers. The most recent survey (February 1991), by the British Market Research Bureau, suggests book buyers generally consider hardbacks and paperbacks to be good value for money. Most also feel that prices have not risen faster than inflation. Even last year, when high street sales generally were moving into severe recession, book sales rose more than 3 per cent in real terms, after a decade witnessing a 26 per cent expansion in the British market.

The main factors influencing book buying are the education and social background of the purchaser. Income is also important — as people grow richer, they have proportionately more to spend on "marginal" goods like books. The growth in book sales during the Eighties in Britain was also driven by the expansion of good quality, well-stocked bookshops.

None of these factors has much to do with the price of books and even Mr Maher now admits that lower prices in themselves are unlikely to stimulate consumer demand. His quarrel with the NBA is not that it has kept prices up



Standing up for the Net Book Agreement: Sir Simon Hornby, WH Smith chairman

but that it has prevented booksellers from discounting specific titles for marketing and promotional purposes. Selective price cutting and heavy promotional activity will, he says, bring more people into bookshops. Customers drawn into bookshops by discounted bestsellers would, once there, browse among the non-bestselling and non-discounted titles and buy them in substantial quantities. This is the nub of Mr Maher's case against the NBA and it fails to convince.

Research by BRMB indicates that heavy bookbuyers (at

least 16 books a year) represent about a quarter of the adult population, who buy almost eight out of ten books sold. If selective discounting is to expand the total market for books, then either the heavy bookbuyer must be induced to buy still more books or the light, infrequent buyer must be persuaded to increase his purchases. Mr Maher concedes that promotional price-cutting would not cause most buyers to switch their custom from non-discounting to discounting booksellers.

Mr Maher's target market must, therefore, be the casual buyer, who is likely to buy

books from outlets other than a bookshop. We are invited to believe that people who normally buy, say, half a dozen popular fiction titles a year, will not only be regularly attracted into bookshops but, once there, will purchase a non-discounted biography of Mozart or a work on Renaissance art. Somehow, as a formula for expanding the demand for books, it seems implausible.

Against this intellectually feeble critique of the NBA, we must line up its advantages accumulated over 90 years. It has undoubtedly encouraged authors and publishers to

Spending by small firms 'plunges'

INVESTMENT by small firms is at its lowest level for six years, according to figures published yesterday by National Westminster Bank.

Ministers place considerable hopes for an economic recovery on the small business sector, but the latest survey casts doubt on the ability of small firms to help bring the economy out of recession. NatWest said small firms' investment had dropped for the second successive half-year. During the first half of 1991, investment was down 39 per cent on the final six months of 1990, and by as much as 58 per cent on the first half of last year.

The decline confirmed fears that the slump in small firms' sales, which it said had been clear since the final quarter of last year, has hit small companies' investment plans.

The figures are drawn from the bank's small business investment index, based on the actual transactions derived from volumes of new lending under the bank's loan scheme for business development, under which it is lending £3.1 billion to about 220,000 small businesses.

The figures are supported by data from the bank's latest small business quarterly survey, which shows that only 13 per cent of 1,700 small firms surveyed expect to invest more in the third quarter of this year than in the three months to June, with 30 per cent expecting to invest less.

Jane Bradford, in charge of NatWest small business, said: "Small business owners are concentrating on survival rather than expansion." She said that "the anticipated improvement in small firms' performance has not materialised and I believe that investment will almost certainly remain subdued for the rest of this year".

The bank believes a return to better investment levels will not happen until sales rise and late payments improve.

As measured by the bank's index, peak investment spending by small businesses occurred in the first half of 1988, followed by a decline, then a resurgence in end-1989 and early 1990. But in the second half of last year, investment activity fell 32 per cent, followed by a further fall of 39 per cent in the first half of this year as the recession hit home.

The worst hit areas were the Southeast and Southwest, with a fall of 41 per cent.

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

Alfred McAlpine finds relief in an 86% setback

IT IS a measure of the depth of the recession within the construction industry that the 86 per cent slump in Alfred McAlpine's interim pre-tax profits was met by some relief.

These days maintaining the dividend and avoiding a loss is considered an achievement for a house builder.

The fall in profits from £5 million to £700,000 in the six months to end-April was in line with forecasts made at the time of the one-for-two rights issue in April which raised £39 million and shored up an unhealthy balance sheet.

Turnover fell from £299 million to £254 million and earnings per share fell from 6.4p to 2.8p. The surprise in yesterday's figures was the prediction by Graeme Odgers, the chief executive, that the group would beat last year's £9.2 million pre-tax profit.

This means McAlpine will have to make at least £8.5 million in the second half. Given the £2.7 million loss in the group's house building division in the first half and a tougher time ahead for construction, which pushed profits up from £5.34 million to £7.03 million, this looks optimistic.

A £2.3 million reduction in the interest charge in the second half resulting from the rights issue and a further reduction in central overheads, which fell by 25 per cent to £1.5 million in the first half, will take them some of the way.

Mr Odgers is confident that the rationalisation in the house building side will lead to a return to profitability in the second half.

The 393 legal completions in that division by half-way were the same as last year but margins were depressed and interest costs heavy. The group is on course to complete 1200 units for the whole year, in line with last year's number.

The minerals division, the star performer in the first half with a jump in pre-tax profits from £440,000 to £1.3 million, looks set to grow further despite difficult market conditions. The American business, which slumped from £1.35 million to £392,000, should show some improvement in the second half.

Gearing is now a manageable 25 per cent and off-balance sheet debt has been reduced from £18 million to £10 million. The dividend has been held at 4.5p and assuming pre-tax profits in line with last year, the final dividend looks safe and is covered 1.2

times. On that basis the yield is 5.7 per cent and the shares, down 7p at 245p, are on a prospective price earnings multiple of almost 17 times. With no sign of real recovery till 1993, the shares look fully valued.

Wace Group

WACE Group has an awful sense of timing. Its last three rights issues coincided with the crash of October 1987, the mini-crash two years later and, more recently, the invasion of Kuwait. So, it was with some relief that the market greeted Wace's interim figures and the absence of a cash call, although the shares fell 7p to 251p. It could have been much worse.

Pre-tax profits slumped from £12.27 million to £8.11 million at the interim stage, reducing earnings per share from 11.9p to 5.6p, from which a maintained dividend of 2.25p is being paid. The printing sector has been ravaged by recession and Wace has been no exception. Parkway, acquired by Wace a year ago, accounted for the rise in turnover from £104.2 million to £148.32 million, but operating profits slipped from £12.08 million to £11.52 million on wafer thin margins.

Wace's problems were compounded by a significant rise in borrowings from 52 per cent of shareholders' funds to 86 per cent, as the company grappled with the integration of its most ambitious acquisition. Capital expenditure is being cut in the second half to assist cash generation but, with business still in the doldrums, no big reduction in debt should be expected. The history of the stock market is littered with tales of ambitious companies that made one acquisition too many. Wace may not be about to become another prime example, but it will certainly have to move fast to stand still during the next six months.

Investors appreciate the quality of many of its businesses, but lack confidence in its ability to ride out the storm, hence the volatility in the shares during the past year. They fell to a low of 186p, from 240p just 12 months ago, before bouncing back at the end of the Gulf war. Wace may well be poised for the return, but the outlook for the current year is cautious. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, Wace's broker, expects profits of £23 million this year and earnings per share of 17.4p, implying a prospective multiple of 14 times earnings. Do not rush to chase these shares any higher.

Paradise postponed

A FORMER advertising executive who runs Paradise Park, a conservation and wildlife centre near St Ives, Cornwall, is so exasperated by the government's attitude towards the plight of small businessmen that he has initiated a chain letter with a difference. The letter, being sent by fax and mail, is in fact a pledge that the signatories will never again vote for the Conservative party "unless the present government introduces, before September 30, 1991, a cut in interest rates of 2 per cent." It carries the instruction to sign the pledge, list your constituency and then forward it to your MP. Unsigned copies should also be sent to "family, friends, staff and business associates" for them to do likewise. Mike Reynolds, aged 60, the instigator,

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

says: "I have been a member of the Conservative party since I was 15 but I am completely exasperated. Anyone in business knows how desperate things are and we have got to find a way of focusing MPs' minds on this. If they get inundated with these pledges, from all over the country, they might just pull their fingers out. It gives them a month."

Royle appointment

ANNE Coleman, still remembered fondly for her two-year tenure as chief press officer at the Stock Exchange, has moved on again. Three years after joining Maureen Smith's Communication Group, Cole-

man has handed in her notice in order to become a director of Royle Communications.



the public relations arm of WR Royle Group, the family-run printing and design group. We moved into PR about four years ago and intend to build it slowly," says Peter Royle, group chairman. "I believe that eventually it could become the same sort of success story for us that financial printing has been — and we only moved into that 14 years ago." Clients so far include Tilbury Docks and Singer & Friedlander.

Peak of ambition

PETER Jones, the privatisation expert who is a corporate finance director at Samuel Montagu, was recruited at the

weekend with two colleagues who worked with him on Scottish Power flotation. Sally Collier and Nick Wyke, also Samuel Montagu employees, were among 15 well-wishers who made it to the top of Meall a' Bhoiridh, a 1,108-metre Scottish hill, to congratulate him on finally fulfilling his ambition — stated in this column two years ago — of walking to the summit of all 277 "Munros" in Scotland. "They were listed by Sir Hugh Munro exactly 100 years ago and they comprise all Scottish hills over 3,000 ft high," explains Jones, aged 38 and half a stone lighter than when he began his mission 11 years ago. He admits that he occa-

sionally had to carry a portable telephone with him, if he was mid-deal. Undeterred, he now wants to conquer all Irish, Welsh and English hills, fitting the Munro criteria. "But there are only about 25 of those."

Good conversion

JOHN Young, the former England rugby international and British Lion, these days a grandfather and engaged in somewhat less energetic pursuits, has nevertheless notched up another title of which he should be equally proud. For Young, ebullient chief executive of the Securities and Futures Association, the organisation created by the merger last April of The Securities Association — of which he was also chief executive — and the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, is being accredited with the title of best-aided regulatory bureaucrat, earning £170,332 a year.

CAROL LEONARD

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Putting the criminal on the map

A geographical computer system is boosting police efficiency in fighting crime. Nick Nuttall reports

Several police forces across Britain are testing a new generation of computers that could help crime by identifying, for instance, houses that are most likely to be burgled, the places where cars might be stolen or people attacked.

The computers use a geographic information system (GIS) which many industry and academic experts believe will be at the centre of police force operations in the coming years.

These digital map display systems have the ability to link a mass of information on crime and incidents from police records and registers, such as gun-licence holders, to a geographical location such as a city centre, a policeman's beat, a post-code or even an address, to reveal patterns of crime.

Applications include asking the system to automatically match and display details of how and into which types of houses burglars are

gaining access so that crime prevention schemes can be finely tuned. Other potential uses involve linking times of burglaries and types of goods stolen to records of offenders to support police hunches and investigations.

A scheme getting underway at Northumbria police, a force covering the shire county of Northumbria and the five metropolitan districts of north and south Tyneside, Sunderland, Newcastle and Gateshead, is initially aimed at assisting the force to share out work more efficiently among its divisions.

"By mapping incidents or 'hot spots', the police hope to make alterations to operational boundaries so that some work in a busy division can be given to a less busy, neighbouring one."

Hugh Thompson, Northumbria police's information technology manager, says: "At the moment such systems are primarily han-

dling fairly static information. Gas boards and electricity boards, for example, use them to track pipes underground. Crime patterns, however, move around. We want to be able to display and replay crime patterns over time to see how they have developed over the past 12 months, 12 hours or 12 minutes."

The scheme, which has been made possible by the loan of equipment from Intergraph, an American computer company that has worked extensively with US police forces, is using digital maps leased from Ordnance Survey.

One way in which the Northumbria force is considering applying this would be in the policing of football matches, demonstrations or marches.

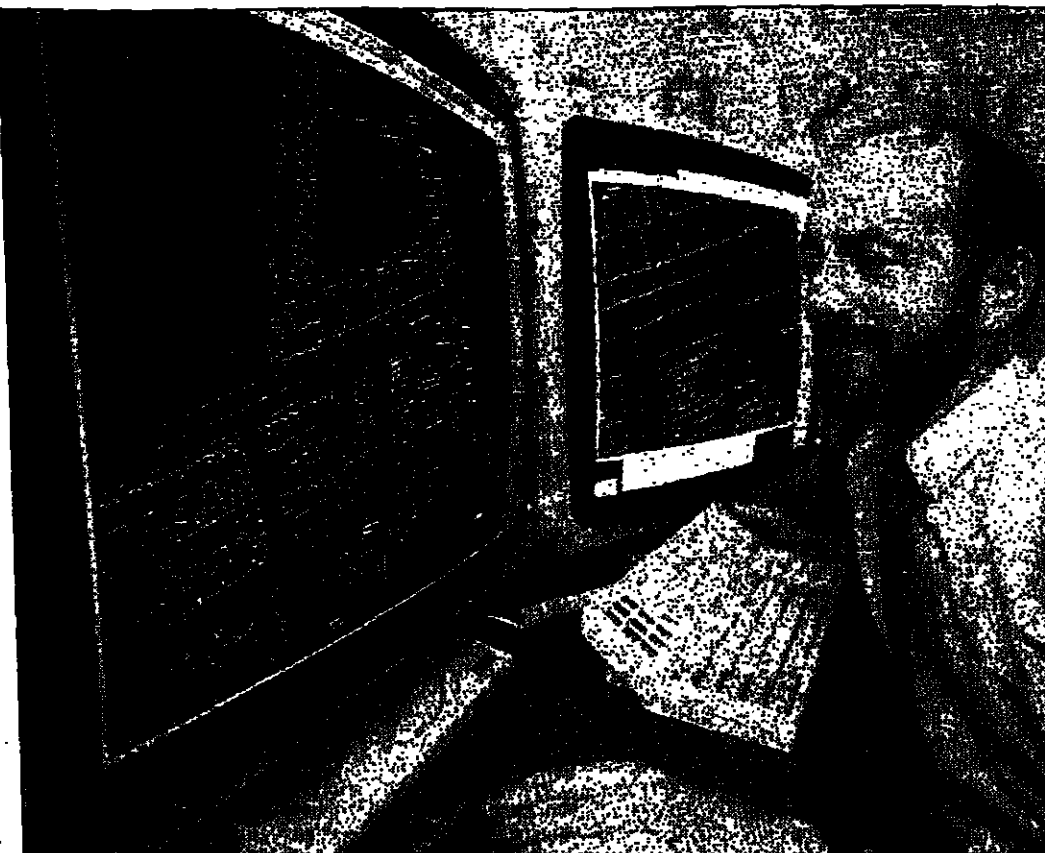
Initially, the force might call up on screen maps of the proposed route and instruct the computer to flag up in different colours streets in which roadworks or gas pipe repairs are being carried out or planned.

Such information might lead officers to decide that a proposed march should be re-routed for safety reasons. The system could then pinpoint any potential pitfalls of the new route, for example, bottlenecks or traffic blackspots.

During the march, information fed into the map display from officers on the spot, would show where the procession was as it threaded through the streets.

At the same time, the position of officers and police cars would be fed into and displayed in different colours on the screen map, using an automatic vehicle location system, so that if problems occur they can be deployed efficiently.

Northumbria is not the only



Crime watch: Hugh Thompson, of Northumbria police, experiments with the new computer

force experimenting with the system. In Wiltshire, the Home Office is funding a scheme called Operation Mirror which is using the technology, says Duncan Hopwood, a spokesman for the Association for Geographic Information in London.

The scheme has several goals, including assessing the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and analysing and linking recorded crimes on a modern housing development with house type and socio-economic data.

It is hoped that the findings might influence the design of a new estate being planned in north Wiltshire to make it less prone to crime, says Mr Hopwood, whose organisation will be promoting the wider use of such systems at its national conference in Birmingham in November.

At least one of the Home Office's safer cities projects, Nottingham, is also harnessing the technology to study crime on a housing estate called The Meadows. This system, which has been

developed by Dr Dave Edden, a lecturer in geography at Nottingham university, has again been linking the incidence of burglaries to houses, building design and the configuration of properties.

Nottingham safer cities scheme employs a carpenter to improve the security of homes. The profiles built up by the system indicate which properties are most at-risk and should be strengthened against burglars, says Chris Walker, the assistant co-ordinator of the safer cities project.

Bright sparks

AN ELECTRIC car that can be recharged in 15 minutes — a fraction of the time needed by conventional systems — has been developed by Nissan, the Japanese car maker. Using a nickel-cadmium battery, the FEV (Future Electric Vehicle) would have a top speed of 81 mph and a range of 100 miles. But there are no immediate plans for mass production of the car, the company says.

Menu change

AUSTRALIA'S cucumber industry is being threatened because bees, which normally pollinate the crops, are bypassing them in favour of more attractive flowers, say researchers at Queensland university. "People think that if a flower is there, a bee should pollinate it. But bees are a bit like people going to a restaurant — how far they travel will depend on their previous experience of how good the food is," says Dr Alan Weaving, of the university's horticulture department.

Royalty fees

JAPAN'S big electronics companies have agreed to negotiate a deal with the country's music industry on royalty payments for digital recordings. The system of payment has not been decided, but will probably involve a levy on purchases of digital recording equipment. Sony and Matsushita start selling rival digital recording machines next year.

Dustbin fuel

AUTOMOBILE fuel produced from household rubbish, recycled newspapers and specially bred "energy crops" will be competitive with petrol by the end of the decade, researchers say. Trees, grasses, domestic and agricultural waste, and crops such as sweet sorghum and a form of sugar cane, could be used to produce ethanol fuel as cheaply as petrol, says Mark Holtzapfel of Texas university.

The problem of growing trees that retain the best features of their parents may be solved. Scientists have succeeded in propagating elite Sitka spruce trees. Their work means the one tree in 1,000 that grows higher, straighter and more rigorously than others can transmit these superior qualities to offspring.

The achievement heralds a whole new era of clonal forestry. Attempts to upgrade tree quality have traditionally been thwarted by the inability of elite tree seeds to grow true-to-type, complete with its parent's desirable characteristics.

A healthy chip off the old block

Traditionally, poor results are obtained when cuttings from mature trees are planted in soil. Programmed by the tree memory, the cutting behaves like a branch, growing sideways along the ground rather than upwards. The sequence of buds it forms is slow to break, whereas buds from juvenile tree cuttings sprout rapidly, giving upright shoots which grow freely.

Agricultural biologists Dr Sean Mac An t-Saoir, who has a Gaelic

name, and Chris Selby, of Queen's University, Belfast, have hit on a way to ensure mature spruce tree tissue so that it switches to juvenile growth patterns, producing plants that are genetic copies of the original tree.

This advance has resulted from the discovery that small, dormant buds from mature trees cease to be dormant during winter if placed on a nutrient jelly and kept in a fridge. The shoots produced, after

further cold treatment, eventually go into free growth, in the same way as Sitka seedlings.

"We don't know what happens or why," Dr Mac An t-Saoir states. "The cold period would appear to reverse ageing. And it means we no longer have to wait 30 years to see what calibre of tree we've got."

At first the tiny buds, cleaned and established in a hormone-free medium, elongate to small shoots which form dormant buds. At this

stage the shoots are put in a fridge for a period, interrupting every four weeks by a return to the culture cabinet where, at 25C, they resume growth.

After several fridge-to-cabinet-to-fridge sequences, during each of which the shoots develop a little, the growth patterns of juvenile material become evident. The shoots stop producing dormant buds and continue to grow and branch in culture, providing the

multiplication system essential for micro propagation. Then, rooted by conventional methods used for stem cuttings, they start to grow as normal trees.

The technique will prove a boon to forestry, allowing certain tree traits considered important in timber production to be exploited. Good growth rate, timber density and strength, straightness of grain, thickness and angle of branching, disease and pest resistance are all important. Different clones may be propagated to suit the environment, catering appropriately for exposed sites and boggy ground.

CARMEL McQUAID

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WALES Education and smaller colleges

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Offshore sun rises on software skills

While many people are familiar with the concepts of teleworking - working away from the office at home or in a local work centre - few have grasped the global consequences.

All signs indicate that offshore information technology (IT) could spread around the world within the next ten to 15 years. This will have dire consequences for existing workers in the service industries of developed countries.

Mr Frits Janssen, the managing director of specialist telework consultants IT World, gives one example: "Barbados is preparing itself to be the absolute offshore information centre of the future, just as the Cayman Islands were the absolute offshore financial centre. They are wiring themselves up and equipping people to handle business such as the American Airlines ticketing operation."

"By the end of the century, when telephone charges have dropped dramatically, multinationals could well be manipulating jobs over a global chessboard, with information technology work being carried out over great distances from places such as Taiwan or Hong Kong. Whole Western countries

Companies will be looking to cheap

foreign labour for tasks usually done

at home, reports

Francis Kinsman

could lose much of their vital skills base."

Organisations such as Satellite Data Corporation, the data entry company, are relaying printed matter via satellite from their American headquarters to Barbados. Entry clerks on the island type the information into a computer for transmission back to the mainland, at far less than half the previous cost.

Meanwhile, other Third World countries with cheap labour pools are eager to join in, including Mexico, India, Singapore, Malaysia, and mainland China, which has wages of just over £1 per week. Such countries are enthusiastic about the introduction of offshore office work because it is labour intensive, requires only a moderate capital outlay and rapidly

generates employment. All that is needed for a country to become an offshore software haven is for it to have a good communications infrastructure for international links, reasonable transportation networks, a high standard of literacy and a skilled workforce, preferably English-speaking, a weak exchange rate compared with Western countries and favourable tax provisions for foreign investors.

As a case history, take Jamaica Digipoint International (DIGI), a joint venture between American Telephone and Telegraph, Cable and Wireless, and Telecommunications of Jamaica. Since 1983, its aim has been to provide advanced telecommunications technology to information processing firms in Jamaica's economic free zones.

In 1988, the Jamaican government negotiated an exclusive contract with JDI to provide the necessary telecommunications technology to data processing businesses operating in these zones.

Ten businesses have started up since, attracted by government incentives. These include free space, tax benefits and full repatriation of profits and dividends to home countries. The companies



have been able to secure clients, largely because of the 25-40 per cent cost savings they can deliver - primarily due to cheaper labour costs than in America.

Jamaica's unemployment rate is more than 20 per cent and for a standard 40 hour week, on average, a skilled data-entry clerk would earn less than a tenth of his, or her, US counterpart. Other conditions of work are also less generous than they would be on the mainland, but do not amount to exploitation.

In total, 600 Jamaicans have been hired to do data entry, tele-

marketing and reservations work, as well as the technical repairs and updates the equipment may require.

What, then, is the outlook for IT workers in the West, and what should they do to protect themselves? Clearly, those most seriously at risk are those with the lowest skills levels. Mere data entry will become extremely cost sensitive over the next few years, particularly as digital networks proliferate.

The Republic of Ireland is an example of a relatively remote and inexpensive country beginning to

attract a number of offshore operations. New York Life Assurance has set up a claims office in Castleisland, County Kerry and ICL has a Unix centre near Leopardstown, County Dublin.

In the long term, however, it will be training and retraining that holds the key. Any existing IT worker, and any existing software house, will need to upgrade skills to defuse the Caribbean effect before it is too late.

Tom Stouffer, a former professor of science and society at Bradford University, suggests in his book *The Wealth of Information* that by

2040 a quarter of Britain's workforce will be in the education and training sector.

Today's British data-entry clerk or programmer will have to acquire other and more valuable attributes, enabling a whole army of trainees in a constant process of personnel enhancement and development. Many people will also be required to act in a consultancy role, helping other industries relocate their operations. It will never be possible to stay still.

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Lotus Development Corporation is the world's largest supplier of PC applications software with a turnover of almost \$750 million. Currently marketing over 30 PC products for spreadsheets, graphics, word processing and communications applications, Lotus 1-2-3 has been the top selling PC package for the past seven years. Lotus has successfully targeted integrated corporate-wide computing through the introduction of 1-2-3 for the IBM, Digital VAX/VMS and UNIX environments. They recently also entered into a major agreement with IBM to market Lotus Notes and cc:Mail information Management products alongside OS/2 based OfficeVision.

IBM Business Manager, UK

£550K package + profit share + car

In this strategic and challenging role, you will be initiating and successfully developing the joint marketing relationship between Lotus and IBM for Lotus Notes, cc:Mail and OfficeVision in the UK.

As a dynamic salesperson and influential business manager, you will have proven your ability to successfully bring together account teams directly targeting top priority accounts, and in over achieving expected revenues. You will also work closely with IBM and their channels, the major Lotus Notes resellers and the consulting firms in promoting both direct and channel activity.

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Senior Systems Engineers, UK

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Your focus will be on a broad client base of corporate customers in a pre-sales environment with an emphasis on presentation skills combined with technical ability. It is vital that you can also demonstrate a commitment to offering first class client support.

Your proficiency in LAN/WAN interconnectivity, networking, gateways and C programming will enable you to think on your feet and come up with effective solutions to business applications. There will be regular contact with Lotus Technical Groups to make sure that you are up-to-date on all the technical developments relevant to clients.

Educated to degree level in an IT related subject it is likely that you will have three to five years' experience working in a similar environment. Ref: LS891/12

"IBM is committed to bringing its OfficeVision customers the best office automation solutions on the market today. Lotus Notes and cc:Mail will enhance our customers' office environment immediately by providing proven, powerful LAN-based group communications products".

As this recent extract from IBM's press launch states, IBM and Lotus Development Corporation are now dually marketing Lotus Notes and cc:Mail on a worldwide basis. As a result, Lotus now wishes to appoint six new executives to develop the Lotus Notes, cc:Mail team in the UK/Europe.

Corporate Account Executive, Belgium

£538K equivalent + profit share + car + accommodation package

As a result of winning a significant client for Lotus Notes and cc:Mail, Lotus is keen to recruit a results-oriented Corporate Account Executive to successfully manage and enhance the relationship between the two organisations.

This is a permanent position with a two year assignment to Belgium project managing the implementation of this major contract. As a crucial member of the team on site, you will work closely with the overall account manager and be responsible for:

- Developing new business opportunities and acting as the representative for Lotus in this prestigious account.

- Ownership of project issues and coordinating international and U.S. Lotus resources for timely solutions.

- Liaising with Dublin, Ireland, on the development of local language versions of the software.

Educated to degree level, you should be technically aware of LAN/WAN networking issues such as X400 and X25. You will have a minimum of 5 years relevant business experience and ideally, a second language. Ref: LS891/13

Senior Systems Engineer, Belgium

To £29K equivalent + profit share + car + accommodation package

As the Senior Systems Engineer, you will work closely with the Corporate Account team, enhancing the relationship with the client through your excellent technical input, during your initial two year assignment to Belgium.

A problem-solver, you will have a number of technical challenges to resolve during this large scale implementation. These will focus on LAN/WAN interconnectivity, networking, gateways and C programming in the majority of which you should be technically proficient. You will also be liaising with Lotus in the U.S. on the latest technical developments of relevance to the client.

You should have an IT related education, preferably to degree level, and at least three to five years experience working as part of an account team offering first class client support. A second European language is desirable. Ref: LS891/14

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Most of all, you'll need the professionalism that gains the respect of other professionals.

To do so, you'll need substantial experience (at least 7 years) of creating marketing communications materials for both a technical and non-technical audience, ideally gained in both an advertising agency and two strongly marketing driven companies.

Either way, you should be of graduate calibre (preferably with a postgraduate qualification in marketing or a related discipline) with first class communications skills, including copywriting experience. A second European language would be a bonus.

Representing a major opportunity in international marketing with a world leader, this role carries a benefits package that reflects this position.

Candidates, male or female, should send a cv, photograph and covering letter demonstrating how your achievements match the position, (quoting ref A104) to Caroline Richings, Selection Consultant, Austin Knight Consulting, Knightway House, 20 Soho Square, London W1A 1DS. Telephone 071-439 5784 (office hours) or 081-694 8629 (evenings/weekends).

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so they can go on to not only achieve their personal targets, but exceed them.

Your objectives as Head of Sales will be achieved by developing a close relationship with your customers, as well as maintaining a high profile presence at exhibitions and seminars - at home and abroad.

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The appointment will be for three years initially, with possible extension or conversion to a permanent position. Your starting salary if based in London will be in the range of £32,498 - £36,538 with progression depending on performance to £42,093. You will also receive 25 days holiday a year, the benefit of HMSO's car leasing scheme and the opportunity to join an excellent non-contributory pension scheme.

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- * define, develop, present internal training on new product releases;
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We provide the training, access to proven products, full technical and administrative support to complement your success in setting up your own business without capital and without risk.

If you feel you can match our requirements please send full personal details to: Mrs Cath Kelly, Mondial, PO Box 193, Bank Hill, North Quay, Douglas, Isle of Man, British Isles.

As a member of the Mondial team you will contribute to the profitable growth of the Company, for which you will be rewarded with an outstanding financial return and our investment in your personal development.

Mondial
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Product Specialists

Dundee

A company at the forefront of technology with a wide range of innovative products and applications, WL Gore & Associates has a unique company culture which allows innovation and freedom to grow to be the driving force behind our business. These positions within our European Electronics Product Division - world-leaders in the manufacture of microwave co-axial assemblies - are no exception.

Internal re-organisation has led to opportunities for ambitious Product Specialists with RF/microwave experience, to provide technical support to our sales and marketing team throughout the UK and Europe.

Qualified to BSc or HND level in a related discipline, you will have at least 3 years' experience in a high-technology environment where you will have developed a high degree of commercial awareness and business skills. A confident communicator with excellent organisational skills, you will have a flair for sales and marketing and ideally be able to demonstrate previous European exposure, including knowledge of a second language.

In addition, experience in the construction and negotiation of technical and contract proposals, customer specification review and document control would be advantageous.

If you can demonstrate the necessary qualities and are willing to travel, we can offer a highly competitive salary and benefits package including relocation assistance where appropriate.

Please write with full cv to Alice MacKenzie, WL Gore & Associates (UK) Ltd, Dundee Technology Park, Dundee DD2 1JA.



Creative Technology
Worldwide

EUROPEAN SALES MANAGER PROCESS CHEMICALS

A new position has been created due to an aggressive sales expansion programme within Lubrizol Business Development Europe.

The position calls for a person with at least five (5) years previous experience as a Sales Manager, coupled with a strong technical understanding of the European Specialty Chemical Industry's needs.

Responsible to the European New Ventures Manager, the person will provide the necessary energy to meet an ambitious Sales Plan for the 1990's.

Travelling extensively throughout Europe, the individual will direct the efforts of a dedicated sales team to promote and sell specialty chemicals and additives to markets such as oilfield chemicals, refinery process, water treatment and related areas.

Career prospects are excellent for the right candidate. Salary is negotiable, and benefits include company car, BUPA, and non-contributory pension scheme.

Please reply in confidence, enclosing C.V., to: Mr. E.P. Richards, Lubrizol Business Development Europe, Palm Court, 4 Heron Square, Richmond-upon-Thames, TW9 1EW, Surrey

APPOINTMENTS IN THE SUNDAY TIMES SALES & MARKETING FEATURE 8th September 1991

The Sunday Times is read by 26% of all Marketing & Sales Managers which is more than any other National Newspaper.

For further information

TEL: 071-481 4481
FAX: 071-782 7826

Source: UK NRS July 1990-June 1991.

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Maximise your potential in tomorrow's employment market



Demand more than well meaning Career Counselling or Outplacement advice. Insist on real direction in your job search based on current market intelligence. Our subsidiary InterMex works with over 2000 recruiters gaining access to 6000 unadvertised vacancies annually - mostly in the £40,000-£200,000 bracket. InterMex makes recommendations for these vacancies - without charge to candidates or recruiters. Telephone Keith Mitchell to arrange an exploratory meeting without obligation Tel: 071-930 5041

Landseer House 19 Charing Cross Road London WC2H 0ES Fax: 071-930 5048

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Nurdin & Peacock Trading

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An all-embracing challenge for an all-round buying and operations supremo

Substantial salary - Fully expensed car - Free shares - Profit sharing
South West London

In thirty years, Nurdin & Peacock has grown to become one of the most formidable forces in the cash and carry industry. With 43 branches, an annual turnover of more than £1 billion, and ambitious plans to double our size in the next decade, there's no denying our achievements.

However, no company can afford to be complacent. Naturally, we are proud of our successes, but are equally aware of our potential growth areas. In the groceries, wines, beers and spirits fields, for example, we are an acknowledged leader - but, on the fresh foods front there is still ample room for development. And ample challenge for an outstanding manager...

When we talk about an 'all-embracing' role, we mean every word of it. This supremo will take total responsibility for every aspect of the fresh food chain...

leading supplier negotiations, supervising the activities of buying teams, monitoring the performance of area managers, as well as setting the highest standards in every sector from food hygiene and preparation to pricing, presentation and customer service. When you consider this ultimate level of responsibility applies across the board to meat, provisions, produce, in-store bakery, fish and frozen foods, you can begin to appreciate the scope and scale of this opportunity. You will be not only the architect of our fresh foods strategy, you will also be answerable for delivering it.

Consequently we are looking for a very senior level retail professional. Someone with an unusually broad-based retail track record. A leader, motivator and all-round professional who thrives on the pressures of an exceptionally demanding - but also exceptionally rewarding - brief.

If you can confidently wear this mantle of responsibility and take Nurdin & Peacock to No.1 in fresh foods, this No.1 position could be yours. Please write, with full details of your education and career to date, to: Maurice I Phillips, Maurice Phillips International, 2 Holly Spring Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 3JL.

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Management Consultant and Executive Recruitment

To place your advertisement
071-481 4481

EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Fax:
071 782 7826

Finance & Human Resource Management

Saudi Arabia

Married Status

Well established as a leader in the food manufacturing industry, our client is already one of the top 50 corporations in Saudi Arabia. Committed to further growth both organically and through acquisition and start up, their objective is to lead the industry throughout the Middle East.

This expansion programme has created a number of important and stimulating posts within the group.

Group Finance Manager to £45,000 per annum

As the senior Financial Executive in the Group you will report directly to the CEO and will have responsibility for all finance functions, and you will be involved with the acquisition programme.

HR Manager to £35,000 per annum

Responsible for a range of HR functions including, but not necessarily confined to, Policies & Procedures and Employee Relations, the post will be Head Office based.

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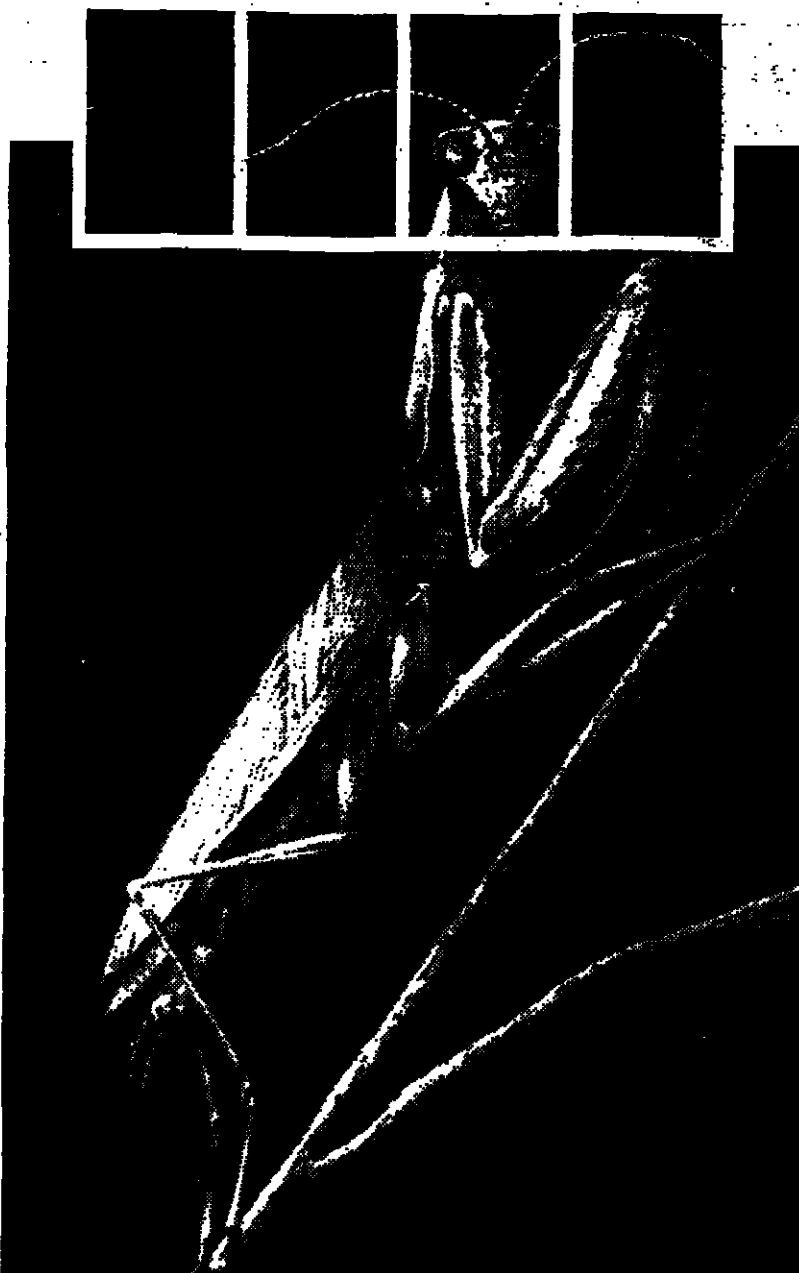
Working across all finance functions and related departments, you will ensure that the finance systems throughout the group are of the highest possible standard.

Candidates for each post should have ten to fifteen years' experience in a relevant field and should possess qualifications appropriate to the position applied for. Naturally, previous overseas experience would be an advantage.

Our client has a long experience of employing UK personnel and from this they have developed comprehensive and highly attractive compensation and benefits packages. High tax free salaries will be individually negotiated and these will be enhanced by realistic bonus plans. Good quality accommodation for you and your family together with a car, medical coverage and flights home will be provided free of charge. Initial two year contracts will be offered but our client's objective is to recruit managers for a longer term career. The prospects of this dynamic, growth-oriented group are outstanding.

To apply please send your resume stating position of interest and current remuneration to: Alan Kerby, Moxon Dolphin Kerby Ltd, 178-202 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6JJ.

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Fortunately, there is the perfect partner for those who prize their individuality. KPMG Management Consulting Europe.

In fact, although an international organisation, we positively encourage individuality; combined with our experience and expertise it is the foundation upon which our reputation for providing innovative solutions rests.

Now, to complement our multi-disciplinary teams, we need a number of people who are highly 'individual' in every sense.

People in their late 20's to mid 30's with in-depth expertise in either the Health, Oil or Manufacturing fields.

Or people with extensive systems implementation skills using SAP, Oracle Financials, Walker or J. D. Edwards packages or UNIX operating systems are required.

People with the ability to work on Pan-European projects, ambitious and able to make a significant contribution from day one.

And people who simply won't settle for second best.

To find out more and to apply, please write with your CV and current salary details quoting Reference SGA91T to: John Gerard, KPMG Management Consulting, 8 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8BB.

KPMG Management Consulting Europe

SALES EXECUTIVES

Basic £18,000 OTE £33,500 plus Company Car U.K. and Eire
Excellent products, superb prospects and rewards... how good are you?

ACADEMY EXPO, a South London based award winning visual communications company, established for some 25 years and in partnership with a billion dollar American Corporation, have established an outstanding reputation marketing a range of exhibition stands and display products enhanced by their own powerful photography and graphics.

Having gained exclusive rights to distribute equipment of one of the world's leading manufacturers of portable and modular displays to complement the existing range, ACADEMY EXPO now need to continue to expand by recruiting sales executives, particularly in London and in the Midlands but also in other UK locations to satisfy the ever increasing demand in the market place.

Candidates must have had formal sales training and have a proven track record of high quality sales achievements. The successful candidates will be articulate communicators capable of contributing to conceptual discussion and possess a winning personality. Previous experience in the exhibition and communication industries would be an advantage but not essential.

If you feel you match up to this criteria, then send your C.V. to: Don Fraser, Managing Director Academy Expo, Academy House, Unit 6 Capital Place, Suffolk Cross, Suffolk Road, Croydon CR0 4TU.

Fax No. 081-666 0273
No Telephone Calls

ACADEMY
EXHIBITION DISPLAYS

UK SALES MANAGER

Telecommunications

££50,000 LONDON

The global telecommunications marketplace is experiencing a period of massive change. Recent deregulation has given international telecommunications specialists like WorldCom an unrivalled opportunity to take a major share of these new opportunities, enhancing their established core business which extends from international private line services to worldwide switched voice and data options.

Part of a major transnational high technology group with headquarters in New York, WorldCom is now looking for a UK Sales Manager who can give the leadership and motivation needed as the company moves into a new phase of its growth. To succeed in this role you will already have demonstrated the ability to effectively manage and motivate sales teams generating and consolidating new business and selling services to major accounts in the international telecommunications or closely related areas.

Based in an attractive new development just north of the City, the UK Sales Manager will be a key member of the management team. The high personal rewards of this challenge are further enhanced by the performance related salary - just part of a package which includes private health cover, pension and a car scheme.

For a confidential discussion about this unique opportunity please send a full CV to: Cherise Emerson.

WorldCom

WorldCom International Inc., TeleColumbus House, 4 City Forum,
250 City Road, London EC1V 2NA.

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You need a new position. With hundreds of applicants applying for each advertised position, how can an individual compete in the marketplace? Fletcher Hunt are not an agency, but a specialist team established to help individuals seeking fast career change to find the right position quickly and professionally, normally within the unadvertised market. Consultancy is sometimes available to our unemployed clients.

Fletcher Hunt plc.

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Birmingham 021-332 5002 Derby 0788 548637 South Wales 0222-786408

Manchester 0623-820054 Dundee 958 889 Hong Kong 0252-358440

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LUBRIZOL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - EUROPE

Has openings for two senior positions within its Industrial Products Group.

Both positions call for technical graduates with a sound knowledge of industrial Lubricants and Additives. Selling experience and strong negotiating skills are required.

SALES ENGINEER

The candidate should have a broad commercial background, with a sound record of selling to international accounts. The ability to coordinate customer support programmes is important.

PRICING AND PLANNING SUPERVISOR

The position calls for a high degree of numeracy and some computer skills, together with an equally competent commercial background. The ideal candidate would have a metalworking background.

Both positions will involve both European and international travel, and there are excellent opportunities for career development.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and the overall package will include a car, non-contributory pension, and BUPA membership.

Location: Richmond, Surrey

Please reply in confidence, enclosing C.V. to: C.R.Shore, Manager Industrial Products Group - Europe, Lubrizol Business Development Europe, Palm Court, 4 Heron Square, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1EW

CRS12086.DOC

Just because you are out of a job doesn't mean there isn't a job out there for you!

Many people assume that it's impossible to find "the right job for me." It's so natural to maintain a blinkered view of your own potential that it's hardly surprising if you fail to achieve your true potential.

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We will show you the way to achieve your career objectives - and we can prove it. Then you too can celebrate!

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SALES EXECUTIVES & APPLICATIONS ENGINEERS - COMMUNICATIONS

Computer Automation Ltd., the 20 years established UK subsidiary of C.A. Inc. of Dallas U.S.A. has recently expanded into the Communications marketplace with a computer based Facsimile Management System.

To further develop our communications business in the U.K. and Europe we now require Sales Executives and Applications Engineers, based at our Watford office.

We need self motivated individuals (age group 30/45) educated to degree level and with recent DEC/VMS and/or communications products experience. Knowledge of Fax/Telex switching systems and foreign language fluency will be advantageous.

We offer excellent reward packages up to high tech company standards.

Interested applicants should send their C.V. to:

Dave Toss, Sales Manager, Q/Fax Communications Products, Computer Automation Ltd, Suite 2, Millfield House, Crockley Centre Watford, Herts WD 8YX

In case of query, please telephone Computer Automation Ltd. on (0923) 55011.

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Responsible for Management, Administration Control for Financial Services Portfolio Management, Investment Co. in London & its Business. Engage in restructuring & reorganisation. Ensure Business Growth and Development. Salary: 25k+. Apply with CV to Mr A Fernandes, 6 St Michael's Terrace London N22.

Sun.

The Best Sales Job on Earth.

In 1989 Morse was an ordinary PC dealer. Then we set up a small, dedicated team to sell and support Sun UNIX workstations.

Today, this (somewhat larger) team has taken us to the No. 1 spot with Sun. This is no coincidence. Morse salesmen are among the best in the country; their earnings among the highest. They have learnt to sell into Business and Financial markets which demand both technical skills and project management.

Two sales positions are open today that put millions of pounds worth of business within the reach of successful candidates. The only problem is that you have to be very, very good to get the job!

Please call me to make a confidential enquiry about this opportunity.*

Nick Reed, Sales & Marketing Director

MORSE

Morse Computers Ltd, 17 Sheen Lane, London SW14. 081-876 0404.

*Or Adam Oates of VCS Recruitment Consultants at 071-734-9999

THE TIMES SUPPLEMENTS

THE HIGHER T L S

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Advertisement Sales Executive

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Do you have excellent telephone skills matched with an exuberant personality?

You could be the person we are looking for to join our specialist sales team on our three most prestigious titles.

We offer an excellent package with management and training support second to none.

Please apply in the first instance to Jane Dalton, The Times Supplements Ltd, Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX. Tel. 071 253 3000

First class remuneration packages are available for all appointments and salary will not present a barrier to suitable applicants.

In line with Hilton International's continued commitment to the expansion of its global portfolio of first class hotels, three new appointments are to be made in the development team.

Candidates will be intelligent, proactive, front line negotiators, used to dealing at the highest level vis à vis acquisitions, joint ventures, management agreements, leasing contracts etc.

They will be able to demonstrate a successful record in a senior development role in the hotel industry, venture capital company or property-based business.

Fluent English is prerequisite in all appointments, with fluency in another language desirable and advantageous. There is also the requirement for French as first language for the Paris-based post.

Applications, including CV and stating current or latest salary to: Mavis Elliott-Smith, Human Resources Executive, Ladbroke HRD Centre, Hilton National Hotel, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8DS. Please mark envelope as appropriate: (V.P.), (Africa), or (Western Europe).

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ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE

Fax Numbers:
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Within the South West Thames Regional Health Authority alone, administration and central contracts currently consume £130 million annually.

Your responsibilities in this challenging context will be to maintain and develop our management accounting and budgetary control procedures for the Regional Health Authority, as well as to provide a financial information and accounting service to budget holders and managers.

To meet the requirements of the post, we'll expect you to have a C.C.A.B. qualification, plus senior financial management experience - preferably from the public sector.

A budget preparation and monitoring background is also essential, as is a working knowledge of micro-computer based accounting systems.

The salary and benefits package is as attractive as the professional challenge is appealing. It includes child care vouchers, subsidised dental and optical care, pension scheme, subsidised restaurant and a smoke free working environment.

An application form and job description are available from HQ Personnel, SWTHRA, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 3QR. Telephone: 071-262 8011 ext: 4026 (ansaphone 8am-6pm). Please quote Ref: 91/85/T.

Closing date: 13th September 1991.
Interview dates: 26th and 27th September 1991.
Working Towards Equal Opportunities.



SOUTH WEST THAMES
Regional Health Authority

MANAGER FIXED INTEREST

An opportunity exists for an experienced AUDITED Fixed Interest Specialist to join N.A.B.'s London Treasury.

The successful applicant would be expected to have a minimum of two years trading/sales experience in Australian and New Zealand dollar domestic fixed interest securities. Previous work experience in Australia would be advantageous.

Opportunities exist to transfer internationally within the Group, and achievements will be recognised and rewarded.

Applications should be directed to:

John Stratton
Head of Interest Rate Products
National Australia Bank
6-8 Tokenhouse Yard
London EC2R 7AJ



ENTHUSIASTIC LITERATE GRADUATES

Johnson Fry has grown in eight years from five employees to over 220. Our business (based in the West End) deals with money - the raising of it, the investment of it and advice on how to make more. We are looking for two graduates of 2:1 degree level to join our Corporate Finance Team. They should be able to write clearly and interestingly and will need to be reasonably numerate. Above all, we require enthusiasm and energy. Training will be on a hands-on basis working with a small, friendly and fun team. An attractive salary and benefits package is offered. If you would like more information, write to the address below enclosing a Curriculum Vitae and explaining in about 300 words why you think we might want you.

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LONDON SW1Y 4PZ

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Confirmations.

You will be reporting directly to the Managing Director.

Your profile:

Experience from a similar position or an audit background is absolutely essential.

and you are also

able to work on your own initiative.

Well organised and have attention to detail.

Efficient and have the ability to handle a large volume of work.

Salary according to experience.

If you think you can match this brief you are welcome to apply to:

Personnel Manager
Jyske Bank
(Gibraltar) Ltd.
76 Main Street
Gibraltar
Tel: 72782

Your handwritten application including your c.v. must reach us not later than 10. September.



ACCOUNTANT 23+

The Accounts Department of a property PLC require an accountant to assist with all aspects of the accounting function from data input to accounts preparation.

The applicant should be computer literate and have the ability to work with a small team.

Salary negotiable. If necessary, study leave available.

Please write with full c.v. details to Mark Lewis, Chesterfield Properties PLC, 38 Carzan Street, London W1Y 8EY. (No Agencies).

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT International Media Co

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Please contact Steven Torode on 071 404 8901

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For further information write to ACP, 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, EC2M 3PL Tel: 071 588 3027 or 382 9348.

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PRINCIPAL AUDITORS

Bristol, Cardiff, Warrington

to £21,500 (under review)

As the strongest environmental protection agency in Europe, the National Rivers Authority has an annual expenditure of over £450m and more than 7000 employees operating throughout ten geographical areas covering England and Wales. Reporting directly to our Chief Executive, the Internal Audit section plays a vital role in ensuring that the affairs of the Authority are managed in a cost effective manner and that we continue to obtain value for money in all our operations.

Principal Auditor (Projects & Computing)

Based in Bristol or Warrington, but travelling throughout England and Wales, you should think of yourself as an internal consultant. You will need to devise creative solutions which help senior management overcome problems and achieve their objectives. You will need to be a confident communicator and be able to meet strict deadlines. A qualified accountant, you should be experienced in one or more of the following areas - Systems, VFM, Computer or Contract auditing.

In addition, we also have temporary opportunities (some of which may become permanent) for full and part qualified accountants at our Bristol, Cardiff or Warrington Bases. These positions will be at Principal Auditor level (salaries from £19,500 to £21,500) or Senior Auditor level (salaries from £15,500 to £17,500) depending on qualifications and experience. Our salary scales are currently under review.

We will reward your expertise with a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with a large organisation. For the Principal Auditor post, relocation assistance may be available where appropriate, along with a contributory lease car.

For an application form please contact Jenny Clumbeck, Personnel Assistant on 0454-62400 ext 4408, quoting reference number 38. Completed applications, indicating your preferred work location, should be returned by 16 September 1991.

NRA is an Equal Opportunities employer



NRA
Head Office

LEGAL CASHIER - SOLICITORS To £22,000

required for 13 partner city firm of solicitors based in modern riverside offices near London Bridge. The role involves assisting the Financial Administrator of the firm in all aspects of the work of the Accounts Department. Aged 25 to 35, suitable candidates need to be fully conversant with the Solicitors' Accounts Rules, VAT and bookkeeping and have a sound knowledge of double entry bookkeeping. An ideal candidate will have been in overall charge of day to day finance in a small practice.

Apply enclosing a CV and hand written covering letter to:
Philip Hodgson, Warner Craxton, Pickford & Ward, Clerk St, London SE1 8NG.

LONDON ARTS BOARD

The London Arts Board, the new Regional Arts Board for the capital which comes into being on October 1, 1991, is building the staff team which will lead the new agency in the exciting opportunity of supporting, promoting and developing the arts in London.

A range of posts is open for applications as follows:

FINANCE MANAGER £24,873 to £26,922 pay award pending

You will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Board's finance and accounting systems with a budget of over £3 million per annum. In addition you will assist the Deputy Chief Executive in the effective management of the Board's resources, and will be responsible for a Finance Officer and a Subsidy Officer. You will be expected to advise on grant applications and the financial status of arts organisations.

For this interesting and varied position, you must have a professional accountancy qualification and significant experience of working in a finance department. In addition you must be able to plan and monitor effectively and have an intimate knowledge of computerised financial systems.

A knowledge of Company Law and an interest in the Arts is desirable.

SUBSIDY OFFICER £16,513 to £18,360 pay award pending

Reporting to the Finance Manager, this job involves both financial management and advice to Arts Officers on applications for funds. Key areas of work will include monitoring accurate records for a wide range of budgets, preparation of annual budgets and invoices, and working with Officers on the financial aspects of applications.

You should have an accountancy qualification and be able to demonstrate experience of working in a finance department. An understanding of computerised systems, and Arts funding is desirable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT EITHER OF THESE POSTS AND AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE WRITE TO: London Arts Board, Corander Building, 20 Galsford Street, London SE1 2NE, or telephone 071-403 9013 and ask for the London Arts Board Office.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1991.

The London Arts Board strives to be an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

071-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Fax:
071 782 7826HEAD OF
CORPORATE
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS

c£38,000 + package North London

The PHLS operates within the NHS in the diagnosis, control and prevention of communicable disease, from our North London HQ and through a network of 54 laboratory sites in England and Wales.

As a national organisation we are now seeking a strong manager to successfully develop its existing and planned IT networks from our modern offices in Colindale.

You will take overall strategic, project and operational responsibility for the management of PHLS information systems for the scientific and business integrated national IT network. We are currently considering tenders for a suite of RDBMS running under UNIX over a national network, with other RDB systems in the pipeline.

You will be an energetic and tough project manager who has proven relevant, business orientated experience in the IT field. It is essential that you possess excellent communication skills and clarity of vision.

In addition to the salary the benefits package includes lease car and P.R.P.

Further details available from Miss Jane Heaton, Personnel Department, PHLS, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5DF. Tel: 081 200 1295 Ext 3624. Closing Date: 12th September 1991

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PERSONNEL MANAGER

Comdisco is the world's largest remarketer and independent lessor of computer and high technology equipment. We are seeking a talented personnel manager to join our team in the UK.

The successful candidate will possess a college level degree and 2-5 years experience in a variety of personnel generalist activities including recruitment, benefits, salary administration, and training. Excellent communication skills, PC literacy, an understanding of European labor regulations, and the ability to design and implement personnel policies are necessary.

As a progressive industry leader, we provide a optimum level of challenge, growth potential, and a competitive compensation package. Please send your CV, including salary history to: Beth Clark, Comdisco UK Limited, Mondrian House, Herschel Street, Slough, Berks SL1 1XS.

COMDISCO

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A substantial, and very well-established UK-based organisation within the Aerospace Industry seeks a Public Relations Manager for its corporate staff located in South-East England.

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Applications with detailed C.V. should be sent to:
Recruitment Officer
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Only candidates meeting the specified requirements will receive a reply

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Applications and Recommendations by September 30th 1991 to: Ewing D. Wallace, 38 Buckton Drive, DUNBLANE, FK15 5PR, from whom further details are available.

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Graduate career trainees for expanding London consultancy. Applicants (aged 21 to 30) must possess drive, initiative and excellent communication skills. In return we offer full training, high rewards and early management opportunities in an exciting and challenging environment.

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Circs £40,000 p.a.

The Economic Council is a body established to advise the Secretary of State on economic policy in Northern Ireland.

The Council is composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of State. Five members are appointed from management interests and five represent trade union interests. There are a further five independent members including the Chairman of the Council, Professor Colin M. Campbell, Vice Chancellor of the University of Nottingham.

Although the Council is financed by a government grant it is entirely independent with its own full-time Director and a research staff of five. They are fully administrative support staff including the Secretary. The Council normally meets monthly (excluding July and August) and most of its advice to Government is made available in the form of published reports. Work is in progress or planned in the following fields: education and training, the food processing industry, research and development activity, inward investment, tourism and transport policy.

The Director has overall responsibility for the Council's work especially the management of the research programme. Candidates should have a substantial record of research on economic issues, a capacity to manage research work and a degree, or preferably a higher degree, in Economics or a closely related discipline.

It is expected that the salary will be about £40,000 p.a. and there is a non-contributory pension scheme.

Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary of the Council or by telephoning (0212) 231025. Belfast BT2 8BA or by telephoning (0212) 231025.

Completed application forms, addressed to the Chairman of the Council, must arrive not later than Thursday 12 September 1991.

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New Division of International Publishing company seeks highly articulate, well educated individuals who are or would like to become Sales Professionals.

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Rice Trader for West African Markets

The ideal candidate will be young, dynamic and ambitious and will have:

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- good connections and/or existing contacts in major West African countries
- extensive knowledge and experience of African markets for negotiation with the public and private sector
- flexibility, as extensive travel in Africa will be required
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Excellent salary and benefits c.o.e.
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If you are motivated and can offer a high level of customer care, please apply in writing with your CV and references to: Penny Colford, Monsoon, 74 Winslow Road, London, W6 9SQ.

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CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGER for its London office.

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- Salary c. £18K

Please send CV to Kumon Educational UK, Elscot House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2JU Tel. 081-343 3307 Fax. 081-343 2857

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Catering Services
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Party Ingredients is a catering company based in South London, which offers a quality service to a variety of special events throughout the country. They now require an

OPERATIONS MANAGER

to take responsibility for the everyday running of the warehouse and the despatching of all functions.

The successful applicant will be aged 27-35, physically fit, live in London and hold a full driving licence. An understanding of the catering industry would be an advantage, but not essential.

For further details telephone: Sue Robinson on 071-720 0804.

The Worshipful Company of
Girdlers
CLERK

Applications are invited for the position of Clerk to the Company. The Clerk is responsible to the Court for all matters concerning the management of the Company and its functions. These extend from Finance and Administration to Education and Charity.

An interest in the History and Traditions of The City of London would be advantageous.

This is a part-time appointment, equivalent to a "flexible" three day week.

Applications and Curriculum Vitae should be sent to: THE MASTER, The Girdlers Company, Girdlers' Hall, Basinghall Avenue, London EC2V 5DD

It is envisaged that the successful applicant will join the Company before the end of 1991.

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We are an exciting and growing company in the UK's most dynamic sports and music industry. We are looking for a motivated and energetic individual to join our team as a Sports and Music Promoter.

Responsibilities for promotion, management in the UK or overseas, to include the following:

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- Promote and manage the sale of accommodation for major sporting events and music festivals
- Promote and manage the sale of travel for major sporting events and music festivals

For further details please contact: 7 Grosvenor Street, London SW1W 4EE

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Required for below the line promotions company. Aged 35-45

French/German/Italian advantage. Northern Home Counties based. Good salary & benefits.

Hand written reply plus C.V. to Box No 5092

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Company specialising in the security industry requires experienced Account Manager to handle negotiations with and presentations to Banks, Building Societies etc regarding design changes and branch refurbishments.

The person appointed will be expected to supervise installation of equipment. Proven management ability essential. Salary commensurate with experience. Please reply Box No 5080.

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The Nottingham bid is an exciting, visionary mixture of innovative job creation and community projects linked to major developments.

The Chief Executive will be responsible to the Board of the Nottingham City Challenge Partnership Trust for the preparation and implementation of the business plan to regenerate the designated areas. The Board comprises representatives from the private, voluntary, and public sectors.

The Chief Executive, who will lead the small executive team, must have the ability to promote and deliver programmes and projects to budget and on time, working with and through different agencies. Candidates should possess commercial experience and have some understanding of regeneration issues. An appreciation of the needs and aspirations of the community and of disadvantaged groups is also necessary.

The post is offered on a four year fixed-term contract renewable after two years and the successful candidate will need to be able to join the City Challenge team immediately.

Interviews for the post are planned for 20th September 1991.

Application forms and further details are available from Mr E. Cantle, Acting Chairman of the Steering Group, Personnel Department, City Secretary's Department, The Guildhall, Nottingham NG1 4BT, tel. (0602) 483500 ext. 4624. Please quote reference CX/9001 on all correspondence and enquiries.

Closing date 13th September 1991.

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Please reply in writing enclosing full CV. Reference AX 5801
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Applications and CVs to: Martin Stocks, 14 Alice Court, 116 Putney Bridge Road, London, SW15 2NG.

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The responsibilities include the maintenance of the Sales Ledger, keeping the records of the Invigilator's and Examiner's Fees and preparation of the monthly bank reconciliations.

The successful candidate will ideally have all round book keeping experience with special reference to Sales Ledger maintenance and bank reconciliations. They will be flexible and able to work as part of a small busy team.

The College has a No Smoking policy.

If you are interested in the above position, please write to Fareena Khan for an application form, RCP, 11 St Andrews Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4LE.

The closing date for returned applications is Tuesday 3rd September.

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The post holder will be based in the Kings Mill Hospice, Sutton-in-Ashfield - opening shortly.

Please apply in writing enclosing full curriculum vitae by 3rd September 1991 to:

Mrs Mary Lloyd Mostyn
Hon Secretary
Kings Mill Hospice Trust
2a Church Side
Mansfield
Nottingham
NG18 1AP
Further details on request.



SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET EXECUTIVE

These two trade associations have jointly created a new post, made necessary because of the interest of their members in the European market.

The S.E.M. Executive will be based in the Westminster offices shared by the two Associations. The ability to communicate is crucial.

The successful applicant needs to be in post by the end of October.

A full job description is available on request, and all job applications should be submitted to:

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Bank of Scotland is looking for a Research Fellow to assist Dr. Richard Savile of the University of St. Andrews in researching and writing the Bank's Tercentenary History, due for publication in 1995.

The appointment will be for three years on the Bank's staff at a salary equivalent to that for University post-doctoral research fellowships. The post will be based in Edinburgh but willingness to travel will be a requirement. It is hoped that the appointment will commence 1st October 1991.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from:-

A. Cameron, Esq.
Archivist, Bank of Scotland,
Head Office, The Mound,
Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
Tel: No. (031) 243 5467

Closing date for applications will be 9th September 1991.



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Britain trio hope to cut half-time deficit

Black closes mind to everything but winning gold

From DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
TOKYO



IF AS Mike Tyson said, "being a champion is a frame of mind", then Roger Black may be on the threshold of becoming 400 metres champion of the world here today. There cannot be an athlete in the final, better prepared psychologically.

It will matter to us, but not to him, what happens to the two other British gold medal prospects who precede him: Tony Jarrett, in the 110 metres hurdles, and Sally Gunnell, in the 400 metres hurdles. At least not before his own final. Not even the success of his room-mate and training partner, Kriss Akabusi, who has won Britain's only medal so far, has impinged on Black's mental rehearsal. "If I let it affect me then I am unprofessional about my approach to the sport," Black said yesterday.

The world championships resume today after a rest day with Britain only just on the medals table. Four days down, four to go and now Jarrett, Gunnell and Black come like the perfect forward line sent to turn round a first-half deficit.

Judging by the 400 metres sparring rounds, there are five in the race: Danny Everett, Antonio Pettigrew and Andrew Valmon, the three Americans, Roberto Hernandez, a Cuban, and Black. Black discounts

Valmon. "I have got as good a chance as anybody to win and my mind is on winning," he said.

The British record will have to go, otherwise Black will be watching from behind. From the way he cantered the closing stages of his semi-final in 44.64sec, the mark set four years ago by Derek Redmond, 44.50, looks as safe as one of Tyson's opponents. "I have to smash the British record to win it," Black said. "I have to break it to get a medal. I could break it and not get a medal."

On this track, probably the fastest in the world, and in this company, someone is going to run under 44 seconds, weather being reasonable. Pettigrew has the best time this year, 44.36sec, then Hernandez (44.40), then Everett (44.59), then Black (44.64).

The world record is not in danger, though. At 43.29sec, it belongs to Butch Reynolds, the American now out of the sport after failing a drugs test. Lee Evans's 43.86sec is next fastest.

Black sees it as two races packaged in one. "I am in lane three and I have Pettigrew outside me in lane four," he said. "He is going to go out fast, so I must not be carried away. I must work off him and

assume I am going to come through at the end.

"Everett [lane five] and Hernandez [lane six] are going to have their own separate race, with Hernandez going out hard. That is why Everett is a big threat, because he will run off Hernandez and come through at the end."

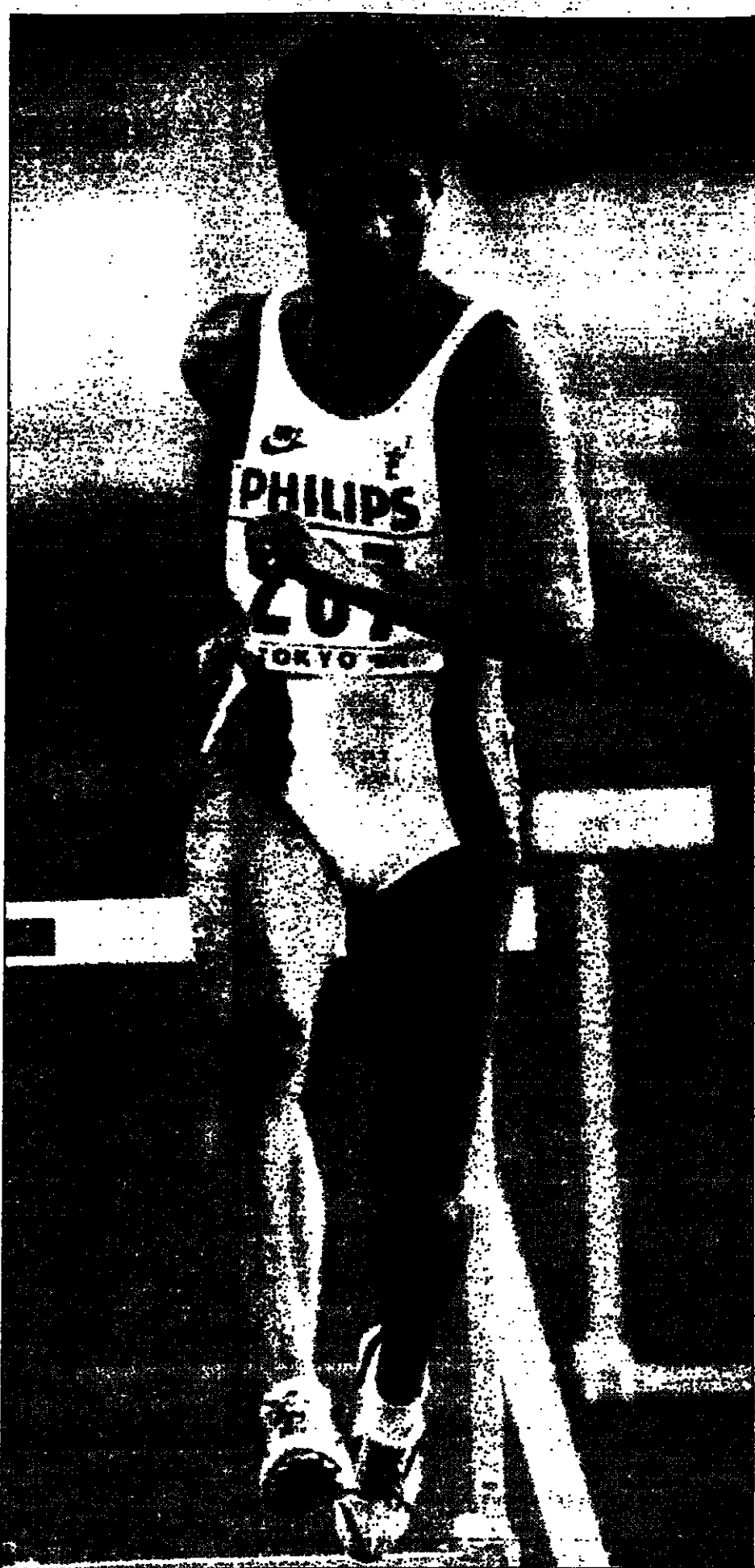
But first, for British supporters, the high hurdles. Greg Foster is trying for his third successive title and, unless he falls, only two men can stop him. One is Jarrett, now ready, perhaps, to step over Colin Jackson's injured body and bear the anthem play for him.

Jarrett was runner-up to Jackson at the Commonwealth Games last year, and at the European championships. The other finalist Foster has to watch is Jack Pierce. Jarrett is sandwiched between the two Americans.

Gunnell, too, has her main rivals on either side. The eccentric Sandra Farmer-Patrick — she runs in a turn when the occasion allows and warms-up with a kung-fu routine — is in lane four. Tatjana Ledovskaya, the European champion, is in six. Gunnell, like Black, will need a British record to win. She has managed that twice this season already.

This is the day when Peter Elliott was supposed to have started his attempt to end Nourredine Morceli's unbeaten run over 1,500 metres this year. But Elliott went home injured and Britain is down to two: Steve Cram and Matthew Yates.

Cram is in the same heat as Morceli, the world's fastest this year, Said Aoutia, the world record holder. Abdi Bile, the defending champion, and Peter Rono, the Olympic champion. How the International Amateur Athletic Federation technical delegates, who decide these things, worked that one is about as fathomable as why Akabusi should have got up at 7am yesterday morning, the night after his medal-winning run, to do his laundry.



A quantum leap: Gunnell needs another British 400 metres hurdles record

Measuring the cost of life on the gravy train

By DAVID MILLER

FRANK Dick, Britain's director of coaching, is seriously concerned that the situation in the world championships, is worse than it was in the years ahead. "We are reaching the point where our medical bill will be larger than our coaching expenditure," he said yesterday.

The failure or injury of Backley (javelin), Elliott (1,500 metres), Jackson (400 metres hurdles), Morceli (800 metres), Martin (10,000 metres), Murray (3,000 metres), Regis (200 metres), Robertson (400 metres hurdles) and Brannan (decathlon), not to mention other original absentees, is particularly a reflection, Dick considers, of the state of the sport.

Everything is conducted under pressure — to make a name in championships, then exploit this on the commercial circuit — and an additional world championships will only intensify the problem. Other countries are experiencing this the same as Britain, though not so conspicuously this week.

Samuel Matete, of Zambia, the favourite, won the 400 metres hurdles as expected, but said afterwards: "I'm really tired. I have been running, running and running." For Matete, substitute Cram, Aoutia or any of a dozen others.

Whether Britain's pre-championship training camp, the same as before the Seoul Olympics, is a sound policy is another matter. There is an opinion that what some failed British athletes need is not collective team spirit, evaporating faster here than the yen from one's pocket — but more intelligent personal coaching. Might this have helped the heartbroken Yvonne Murray and a day-dreaming McKean?

It is disturbing that Britain should twice do so well in European championships, at Stuttgart in 1986 and Split last year, and then relatively so indifferently the following years in world championships, in Rome and Tokyo. There are two possible answers: wrong training, wrong emphasis, or both.

What undoubtedly will happen, now that there are no more world championships in three consecutive years — Tokyo, Barcelona, Stuttgart (1993) — is that athletes will be obliged to concentrate on only two, maybe even one, out of the three, especially if they also intend seriously to attempt the European championships in 1994. The Commonwealth Games recede even further. "Athletes will start giving federations the option on which championship they wish them to be selected for," Dick says.

The situation in the sport, he argues, is moving away from being an athlete-centred to a coach-centred. "Clever in the short-term," he says, "but ultimately eroding the athlete, shortening the life span. As president of the European Coaches Association, what I propose is a four-year cycle of Olympics, Commonwealth/European Cup/World Cup, world championships, Olympic, having the principal events every other year."

A vote by leading British athletes by three to one against an additional world championship in the four-year cycle was not even put before the International Amateur Athletic Federation board, congress by an extra world championships in return for support on a four-year suspension for positive tests.

In any year under existing schedules, including the grand prix commercial circuit, one quarter of all international athletes are now temporarily lost through injury or stress. "And the figure is growing," Dick says. The long-term consequence will be that some of the money going to extra world championships will be lost in expenditure, transporting the competitors around the world, and prize appearance-money will have to be introduced as incentive to the cost factor will inhibit national federations, who will become reluctant to select those other than potential medal winners, thereby denying promising athletes the benefit of experience, such as Cram, gained as a 19-year-old in Moscow. The increase in world championships to three (Olympics included), though making it easier to become a champion, will dilute the financial benefit.

SPORTS LETTERS

Time for blues to change tune

From Sir Alexander Durie
Sir, Talking recently with the distinguished parent of a cricket interest, we contrasted the paltry interest in the county fixtures with Lord's with the mercurial rise in recent years of the rugby blues at Twickenham. The Boat Race, too, is regaining its public appeal. We agreed regretfully that a certain result on a day of such great occasions, the success of the occasion and assist University cricket finances, besides relieving the pitch congestion to which Lord's is now subjected.

Given that the one-day game is now such a popular feature of the cricket programme, we concluded that the time has surely come for Oxford and Cambridge to stage an annual one-day "match" at Lord's. The feelings of the traditionalists, seeking to protect the historic three-day match could be met

Caught short

From Mr John Bell
Sir, My recent holiday in Greece coincided with the final Test match against West Indies, so I took a short-wave radio with me to listen to the BBC World Service sports news. This coverage gave tantalisingly brief glimpses of exciting developments in play, followed two days later by full reports in your pages.

World Service ball-by-ball commentary was announced from time to time for certain

frequencies, but for Asia and the Caribbean, not the Mediterranean.

As a keen Test Match Special listener I view the forthcoming loss of the Radio 3 medium wave frequency with dismay. The BBC tries to find a new home for its ball-by-ball service for the United Kingdom. I suggest it institutes this on short wave. Suitable radios are available at a reasonable cost.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BELL,
Glan Ely High School,
Michaels Road,
Cardiff.

Away from Lord's

From Mr N. K. Douglas
Sir, The Way to Lord's, a collection of cricket letters to The Times, is introduced by a letter from Mr D. M. Britain (June 1968) in which he says: "Now I know that this country is finished. On Saturday, with Australia playing, I asked a London caddy to take me to Lord's, and I had to show him

Weighty changes

From Mr C. J. R. Sweeting
Sir, Hunt point-to-point committees will be meeting in the near future to decide schedules for 1992.

Prior to making any radical decision in the light of the Macewan Committee report, I trust that they will take into account the detrimental effects that two of the suggestions might have if implemented.

1. Weights: acceptance of 12 stone races with penalties, meaning five-year-olds (mare or gelding) carry 11st 7lb. Allowing 7lb for tack, clothing, etc., a jockey must be 11 stone or less to ride at the correct weight. A five-year-old mare cannot claim the full allowance. This would stop experienced riders from riding maidens at these weights.

Clerks of scales and other officials already have difficulty

Sizing up the Premier League

From Dr Robert A. Dunn

Sir, I am at a loss to see the rationale behind the establishment of the Premier League when it does no more than change the name of the present first division. Surely the argument that English football clubs need less domestic competition if they are to thrive in Europe is a spurious one; quite possibly it was the very rigour of such competition which explains the success of English teams in pre-Heysel days.

If, however, there is a real need to reduce the number of games, it seems that a more workable formula would be simply to limit the number of teams in the first division (this, of course, assumes that the issue is not solely a power play between the Football Association and the Football League). In any event, I have failed to note any improvement in the Scottish game since the same designation was adopted north of the border.

I have more sympathy with the notion suggested by Peter Bell (report, August 14). He noted, albeit in a slightly different context, that a Premier League including the more traditional footballing powers would have greater credibility than one made up only of the existing first division teams.

Any number of statistical measures could be employed to

identify the cream of English football since the inception of the League; for example, the top 20 teams based on accumulated first division points over the last hundred years, or best finishes in terms of League titles and/or FA Cup triumphs, or possibly highest average gates also over the same period.

I suspect that each of these yardsticks would independently identify the same top 20 teams. Clearly, Sunderland and Wolves would match up with the top five of today (and at least ten members of the present first division are without historical quality).

Alternatively, if the Premier League is to have commercial success, the FA could consider selling franchises in the style of American sports organisations. Competing groups, presumably — but not exclusively — existing teams, would vie with each other on a financial basis. In turn, this would derive mainly from the commitment of local investors (rock stars?) and sponsors (breweries?) and depend on direct and indirect market size (gate capacity and television potential, respectively).

Very truly yours,
ROBERT DUNN,
1305 Westgrove Boulevard,
Alexandria,
Virginia 22307,
USA.

Unfair criticism

From Mr K. C. Bass

Sir, Mr Keith Martin (August 22) is being less than fair to Graham Gooch and Vivian Richards in his criticism of their tactics as captains of the England and West Indies teams. A captain is only as good as the members of his team.

If batsmen decide to throw away their wickets by careless strokes and bowlers do not bowl on a line and are repeatedly no-

balled, it is not the fault of the captain.

The manager of a team is in a similar position to the captain: a good manager cannot guarantee success.

Yours faithfully,
K. C. BASS,
5 Arlington,
North Finchley, N12.

Time catches up

From Mr Raymond Worgan

Sir, Stands at cricket grounds used to be named after giants of the distant past such as Warner and Altham. But now they are being named after players whom I have actually watched, such as Compton and Bedser, Edrich and May.

I fear my days as a cricketer old fogey have arrived sooner than anticipated.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND WORGAN,
Milton Point,
Yealm Road,
Newton Ferrers,
Plymouth,
Devon.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

IOC may readmit Baltic states

From DAVID MILLER
IN TOKYO

READMISSION of the Baltic states to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will be considered at the executive board's meeting in Berlin from September 17 to 19, Juan Antonio Samaranch said here yesterday. There is a special case for renewal, he said, similar to that of South Africa.

"If the major nations, such as the United States, Japan and the European Community, recognise the Baltic states, and also the United Nations, then we will probably accept them," Samaranch said.

The IOC is having to jockey, like the political world, with events that are changing by the week. Although it was stated at the session in Birmingham in June that no consideration for new applicants for membership would be given until after the Olympic Games in Barcelona next year, the unstable situation in the Soviet Union obliges the executive board to respond.

There are already eight other new applicants in the pipeline. If Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which had national Olympic committees before annexation at the end of the second world war, become fully independent in the coming months, the IOC clearly has a

problem. Soviet bobsleigh competitors predominantly come from the Baltic states, I understand, but would be ineligible for the Soviet Union team at the Winter Games in Albertville in the event of formal separation. The same would apply to prominent Baltic oarsmen, for example, expecting to compete in Barcelona.

Samaranch, however, said that the IOC may be too early, other than for the symbolic display of national flags. He added that no similar consideration could be given to other Soviet breakaway states, such as the Ukraine and Belorussia, which would inevitably seek Olympic affiliation. The same applies in the event of the break up of Yugoslavia.

Because of the increase in competitors in an already overcrowded Olympic village — in Barcelona, Samaranch said — a more rigid quota system might have to be applied by international federation. Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation, said that, in regard to affiliation of national federations, the IAAF would await IOC action.

Samaranch and Nebiolo were at a formal media breakfast given by the IOC as a mark of unity between the bodies. Goodwill has been this on the ground

this past week, with the IAAF pressuring the IOC for more substantial sharing of Olympic Games income, and for Nebiolo's involvement in Olympic administration as president of the leading sport. Neither president can afford long-term friction, and each wishes to demonstrate public amicability.

The controversy is coloured by the volatile personality of Nebiolo, yet it is publicly inconsistent that eight international federations have a place among IOC membership but not the biggest sport. The obvious solution is that Giorgio de Stefani, aged 87, the senior Italian member, should resign. Nebiolo's resignation, much of the present stress would be resolved if Nebiolo, the president of both athletics and the Association of Summer Olympic Federations, were to gain membership, however much the other members might resist Samaranch's proposal.

Even within Italy, the preference would probably be for Mario Pescante, the general secretary of the NOC, yet Nebiolo clearly has a point in principle, whatever the wishes of the IOC chair.

Also to be debated by the executive board will be uniformity on drug suspension by all individual federations. It is

clearly nonsense that athletics has four years for positive testing and cycling three months. The effect of athletes' random testing is apparent, for example, in the women's 400 metres here at the world championships, with nobody running under 49sec against a world record of 47.60sec and championship record of 47.99sec.

Nebiolo yesterday announced the staging of the African Union Games in October — as predicted in yesterday's Times — and said that he was pleased a path had been found for South Africa after their failure to arrive in Tokyo. There will be a unified athletics programme in Dakar on October 5, and a full programme for the event between all-Africa and South Africa in Johannesburg on October 11 and 12.

A special IAAF congress, needing applications from 60 countries (one-third) and three months' notice, will be necessary for South Africa now to compete in Barcelona following withdrawal of the membership offer last week. The United Games will take place under temporary membership of the African federation.

The World Cup has been shifted from 1993 in Havana to September 25 to 27 next year, following the Olympic Games.

RUGBY UNION

Tougher legislation threat

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIALS of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) admitted yesterday that the player movement and allegations of illegal inducements in an amateur game were likely to demand even stricter legislation. "I hope player registration will move towards a central system and events this summer may have accelerated that," Bill Bishop said during the launch at Twickenham of the fifth Courage Clubs Championship season.

Bishop, who has stepped down as chairman of the RFU competitions sub-committee but takes over the chairmanship of the senior clubs committee, said that registration had already been tightened up for the new season, which starts on Sunday, though the Courage championship — now with 171 clubs in 110 leagues — does not begin until November 16, after the World Cup.

"Alleged inducements is an RFU problem that we will have to deal with," Bishop added. The union has already contacted two leading clubs, Leicester and Wasps, who have complained

about approaches to their players from other clubs and a letter will be sent to all clubs warning them that the RFU has the power to suspend clubs and players in breach of the regulations. John Langley (Wasps) emphasised that his club, while making no specific allegations, wanted "a scrutiny of the conduct of some clubs."

"An undesirable trend has been highlighted, which nobody wants," Peter Yarranton, the

RFU president and a former president of Wasps, said. "Players are whizzing around from club to club in a game whose strength has been built on club loyalty. It's the responsibility of clubs themselves to ensure the manner in which a player is transferred is within the laws and spirit of the union."

"If that doesn't work we will bring about other legislation to tighten it further. We have had to put up with the nudge-nudge, wink-wink, long enough. We want to get at the truth. My personal view is that there is a lot of merit in the French system [which limits the possibility of players moving clubs playing first-team rugby for a year]."

The competitions sub-committee, which also met yesterday, considered a request from the Senior Clubs Association that the national divisions should revert to 12 rather than 13 clubs. In view of the agreement in principle of the 1992-3 season, it may be sensible to consider nine- or ten-club divisions to allow flexibility.



Yarranton: wants truth

ROWING

Hubbard fills Radley's new vacancy

RADLEY College's new warden, Richard Morgan, has broken ground by appointing a director of rowing (Mike Rosewell writes). Philip Hubbard, who is a former Great Britain junior international and under-23 gold and bronze medal winner, will be in control of all aspects of Radley's rowing and will coach the first team.

Top schools have generally employed teachers who also coach rowing. Bruce Grainger being the latest case at Eton, but the appointment of Philip Hubbard is, in effect, the employment of a full-time professional rowing coach.

Radley, one of the country's oldest and largest rowing schools, has been lacking in success since a Henley win in 1988. Morgan, whose enthusiasm for sport was well known when he was headmaster of Cheltenham, said: "Rowing is important in schools because it demands steel." He hopes that Radley will once more "produce some top-class candidates for the GB squad."

هكذا أصل

Moody shores up Worcestershire innings

Munton makes the most of erratic Edgbaston bounce

By RICHARD STREETON

EDGBASTON (first day of four) Worcestershire won toss; Warwickshire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 46 runs behind Worcestershire

AN UNPREDICTABLE pitch, with erratic bounce, was responsible for Warwickshire dismissing Worcestershire for 166 by mid-afternoon yesterday as they began their efforts to regain the championship lead from Essex. Tim Munton took seven for 59 and only a masterful 91 from Tom Moody enabled Worcestershire to avoid complete ignominy.

Warwickshire found the conditions equally hard to overcome when they went in and Botham, in particular, bowled with good control as he took four for 50 from 17 overs.

Overall it was a tense and dramatic day's cricket as 17 wickets fell, but whether Ray Julian and Peter Wright, the umpires, will feel it necessary to alert the Test and County Cricket Board about the pitch remains to be seen. It was understood, initially, that they were not excessively concerned but would be watching closely how its behaviour developed and particularly, of course, whether it became dangerous, an important criteria.

Neither of these officials

have ever shirked reporting pitches. A visit from Harry Brind, the board's inspector of pitches, during the game, though, brought no further censure.

The main problem for batsmen yesterday was the variable bounce. In addition, a good covering of grass ensured movement off the seam and the heavy morning cloud also meant that the ball swung. Tim Curtis, the Worcestershire captain, said the erratic bounce was caused by cracks which were evident before the start, and that he did not expect the game to last into the fourth day.

Worcestershire's problems began in the second over when Small dismissed Beat and Hick with successive balls. After this Munton was the chief destroyer and by lunch he had taken five for 28 in ten overs. It was the fifth time this season he has taken five or more in an innings and his season's aggregate has now risen to 67, two more than Donald.

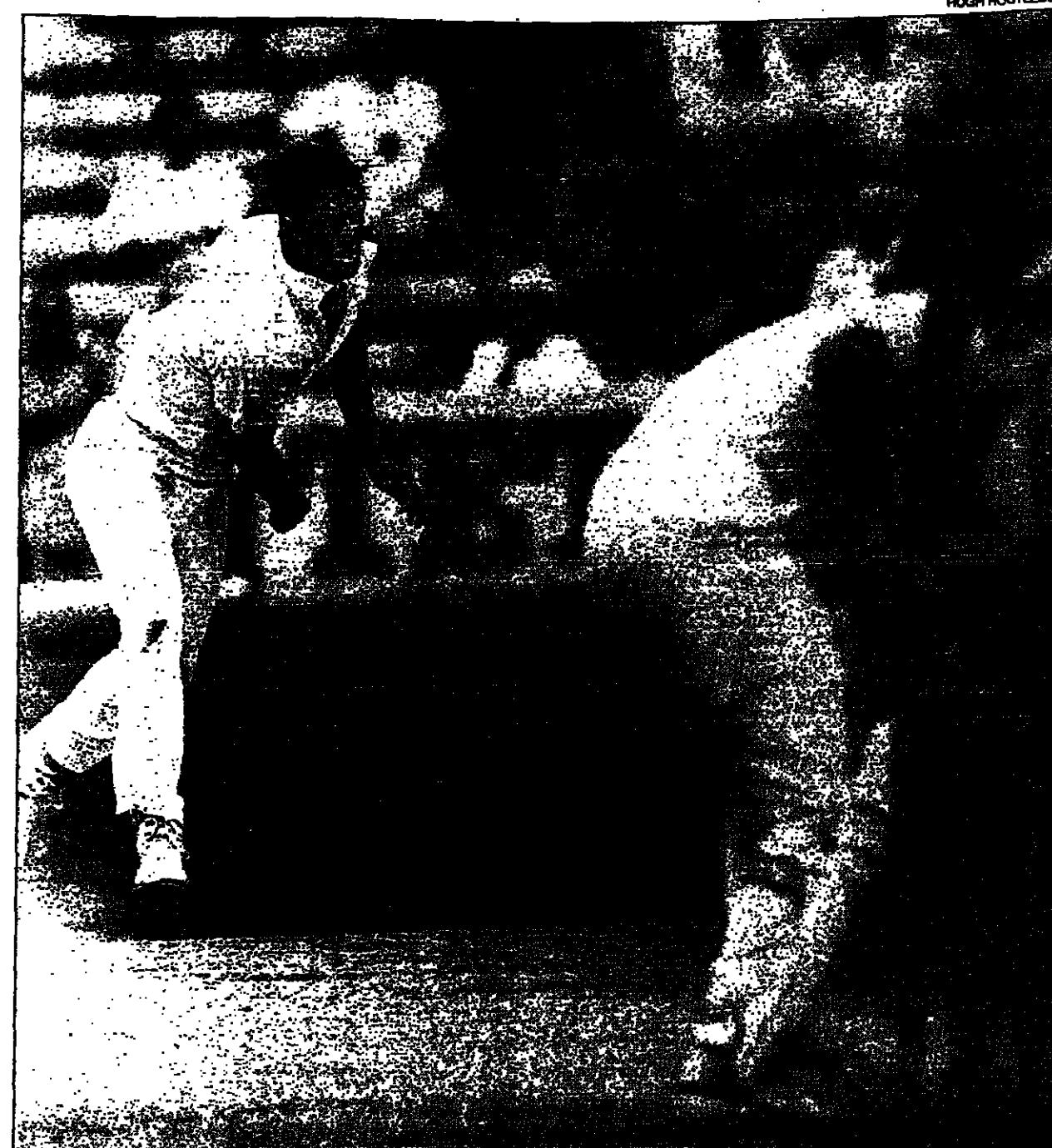
No praise can be too high for Moody, who dealt efficiently with lifting balls throughout his three-and-a-half hour stay, was always content not to play anything he did not have to, and drove powerfully when it was possible. Moody hit 11 fours before he was last out, trying

to slog against Munton when he was joined by Radford.

Donald, who might have been expected to be devastating, often extracted tremendous bounce but the ball tended to soar over the batsman's head. Small benefited from the way the ball frequently skidded through low. This was how he dismissed Hick as the batsman played back to his first ball and was leg-before.

Munton first had Curtis leg-before as the batsman shuffled in front, and two balls later D'Oliveira was held at slip as he pushed forward. Rhodes played back fatally, which brought Botham in. Botham saw aggression as the remedy, hitting five forceful fours before he was bowled inside a further wild stroke. Illingworth was out to a brilliant, right-handed diving catch by Ooster at second slip. The best stand of the innings came for the eighth wicket, as Tolley helped Moody add 56 in 12 overs.

Warwickshire lost Ratcliffe, who played on to Botham, in the 23rd over and then Lloyd was beaten by Tolley's late movement. Botham followed with two wickets in four balls: Moles was caught behind from a loose stroke and Ooster was caught in the slips against one that lifted. Later Botham had Reeve held in the gully.



Act of aggression: Kasprovic delivers to Lathwell, who with Smith put up a spirited resistance for England Under-19 against a fierce Australian attack at Chelmsford yesterday. Report, page 40

Titchard's century tips scales

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

STEPHEN Titchard, aged 23, scored a century in what was only his eighth championship innings for Lancashire to thwart Nottinghamshire at Old Trafford yesterday in a match they made vain to retain credibility as challengers for the championship.

Lancashire, out of the race after losing four of their five previous matches, were 67 for four after an impressive new-ball spell from Andy Pick, who took three for 15 in his first 6.2 overs, a useful player to be in control, Edgbaston excepted.

Abergavenny, where more than 1,600 runs were scored in a three-day match with Worcestershire last season, again provided a happy hunting ground for Gloucestershire.

Alan Butcher and Hugh Morris put on 197 for the first wicket against Gloucestershire, Butcher hitting 21 fours and a six before he was dismissed for 147, while Morris became the youngest player to complete 10,000 runs for the county during the course of his innings.

A brisk, unbeaten 60 by

Yorkshire's left-arm spinner Phil Carrick, breached some much needed life into the game against Northamptonshire at Northampton. The Yorkshire middle order made such hard work of Andy Roberts's leg breaks that only two batting points were gained. Phil Robinson, lasted 45 overs for 30, whereas Carrick raced to his half-century in 69 balls, as Yorkshire reached 267 for six.

The 105th Scarborough Festival was launched in explosive style by Carl Hooper, who made an unbeaten 164 of a West Indian XI's 423 for six against a World XI.

Hooper hit five sixes, a five and 24 fours, his last 42 runs coming from a mere 11 deliveries. A big holiday crowd saw Hooper and Roger Harper add 191 in an unbroken seventh wicket stand, which lasted no more than 92 minutes.

A significant part, but ruled out the possibility of his being paired with one as he was with Paul Wey in 1983.

"I am going to play with José María Olazábal again," Ballsteros said. "That is one thing for sure. I think the team is very good. We have seven players with experience and five who will be very enthusiastic. I think it is a good combination. The best thing for us is that we seem to be picking up more strength from the players who were in the previous team, where we were very good."

Ballsteros also suggested that it would be a good idea if Paul Broadhurst and David Gifford, the two newcomers who have not played in the United States, entered the BC Open, which is the first of the two events of the Ryder Cup. Sam Torrance is already playing in that event.

Nick Faldo, meanwhile, indicated that his partnership with Ian Woosnam might be abandoned.

"I'm not 100 per cent sure that we will be playing together again," Faldo said. "It would seem the obvious thing to do but it might be a good idea to give the new boys a seasoned player, capable of keeping things calm. Steve Richardson and Colin Montgomerie have both had very good seasons but the Ryder Cup is new to them."

Faldo, who might team up with Richardson in November in the World Cup of Golf, in which he has not played for 15 years, is hoping that his confidence will be enough to allow him to use the driver at Walton Heath this week. "It's very dry out there and if you're brave enough to take the driver then the course is going to play very short."

Gallacher's tradition is at stake
By JOHN HENNESSY

WHILE Ian Bernard has the serious business of the Ryder Cup on his mind, Stephen Gallacher is busy establishing himself on the lower rungs of the golfing ladder.

Already the winner of the Scottish boys' strokeplay title, Stephen sets out today in pursuit of the PGA junior championship, which is sponsored by Pro-Shot, at Selsdon Park Hotel, Surrey.

Gallacher, aged 16, has already made his mark at a more senior level by finishing fourth in the Scottish youths' championships.

Playing off scratch, Gallacher is backmarker in the event with the English boys international, Robert Walton, aged 18, of Calcut Park.

Janice Moodie, like Walton a runner-up in the recent British championships for boys and girls, won the PGA title by six strokes last year and must be an overwhelming favourite today and tomorrow.

New 18, she is a full Scottish international.

Archer to return to Lord's

MINOR COUNTIES CRICKET
By MICHAEL AUSTIN

NICK Archer, the Staffordshire captain and Walsall batsman, will achieve a remarkable double in the next two days when playing for county and club on his debut at Lord's.

Archer leads Staffordshire against Devon in the Holt Cup final today, and plays for Walsall against Teddington in the national club championship final tomorrow. He began an eventful week with a hundred in the Birmingham League and celebrates his 36th birthday on Saturday.

Both teams are making their first appearance in the final, and Devon's recent schedule has been as busy as that of Archer. They were playing four consecutive days of championship games before travelling from Warrington to Lord's last night.

Hiley Edwards, the Devon captain, said yesterday: "It has been hectic, but having match practice leading to the final is far more preferable than playing at all." Edwards and Archer have parallel memories of the most recent meeting between the sides, in the Gillette Cup, now the NatWest Trophy, at Torquay in 1978. They acted as twelfth man for that respective teams and Staffordshire won by four wickets.

Staffordshire have also qualified for the championship final at Lord's on September 8. Paul Newman, formerly of Derbyshire, leads their attack and the team includes Jonathan Addison, who spent three seasons with Leicestershire, and David Banks, a former Worcestershire and Warwickshire batsman. Steve Dean and David Cartledge, the opening batsmen, have also flourished.

Devon's strength is also in their batting. They called upon Giles White, who scored 42 for Somerset against the Sri Lankans a fortnight ago, and Bob Dawson, who has played for Gloucestershire second XI.

Several of Staffordshire's team have previously represented their clubs in Lord's final, but Nick Folland is the only Devon member to have played there apart from Charlie Fritchard, who once appeared in a representative hockey match at the ground. Staffordshire should have the edge, but limited-overs matches at minor counties level are just as unpredictable as those in first-class cricket.

DEVON (from): J. H. Edwards (captain), S. White, N. Folland, J. P. H. Davies, G. White, K. Donohue, J. K. Tenny, T. Ward, C. Pritchard (wicketkeeper), M. C. Woodman, R. Hume, A. Maddocks.

STAFFORDSHIRE: N. J. Archer (captain), S. J. Dean, D. Cartledge, J. Addison, D. Banks, A. Dutton, P. C. Newman, M. J. Humphreys (wicketkeeper), R. Spies, D. C. Stark, N. Hickett.

Bowler's century restores norm

By JACK BAILEY

LEICESTER (first day of four) Derbyshire won toss; Leicestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 262 runs behind Derbyshire

THE casual spectator breezing in to Grace Road a few minutes before lunch could be forgiven for being enveloped in confusion. The Leicestershire fox had turned on his neighbouring tormentors with a vengeance. Derbyshire, lying handily in third place in the championship, were being savaged by Leicestershire, who had not responded well in the nets. Parsons had fallen for 79 runs, four of them to Maguire for no runs in 14 balls; one had been taken by someone not appearing on the scoreboard.

It was in the last of these facts that the road back to normality lay. For, not wholly uncharacteristically, Chris Lewis, toofoot from the Lord's Test match, had cried off for Leicestershire half an hour before the match began. Stiffness of the neck had not responded well in the nets. Parsons had been summoned from a second XI match at Derby to play in his first championship game in the current campaign, and he, it was, with Mills, had little wrong with the conditions. Having been given this not unusual state of affairs at Leicestershire to which to cling, it was not long before all confusion was dispersed. Derbyshire's opening batsman, Bowler, him-

self a former Leicestershire man, settled in the long road to an innings-saving century. He put on 48 in 20 overs with Cork and 79 in 25 overs with Warner before passing his hundred — admirably fashioned for the four-day game and Derbyshire's needs — in five-and-a-half hours.

Bowler's was the ninth wicket to fall. In batting almost throughout Derbyshire's innings, he dug them out of a deep hole by intense application and severe punishment, off the back foot through the covers, or anything short.

It had not looked at all good when Barnett was picked up low at third slip by Whitaker in the day's first over, bowled by Mills. Morris was dominant in the bowling, the score to 58 before he took the wicket of cover and Maguire's golden spell was underway. Two fine catches behind the wicket by Whitaker and another in the slips by Whitaker helped him along, and when Parsons induced Krikken to give another over to the wicketkeeper, disaster beckoned Derbyshire.

Maguire had bowled well and Leicestershire's early catching behind the wicket had been excellent, but that there was little wrong with the conditions was confirmed by Cork, Warner and Base.

When Cork removed Boon and Parsons in his first over at Leicestershire, Derbyshire's day was complete.

Canterbury (first day of four) Middlesex won toss; Middlesex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 227 runs behind Kent

INTENT on finishing the season with a share of Britannia Assurance prize-money, Kent made indeterminate progress towards that end. Put in and bowled out for 258, Trevor Ward was their one batsman who looked capable of mastering the Middlesex medium-pacers, of whom Dean Headley took five wickets. Ward alone reached a half-century.

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Kent struggle against medium pace

By IVO TENNANT

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Thus it was evident why Kent are keen for Carl Hooper, the West Indian all-rounder, to join them next season. They have sufficient bowlers of medium pace to be able to cope without Merrick; no fewer than five are playing in this match. Of their batsmen, several had their eye in when they were out.

The pitch belied Gattings' expectations. The odd ball lifted or cut around, but Ward began his customary rate before choosing to make one of his more methodical half-centuries. Headley had removed Benson and Taylor and, in time, dismissed Cowdrey as well as Fleming of the middle-order

batmen. Circumspection was required even of Ward.

Both Headley and Williams looked to bowl within their selves, conscious that the pitch was intrinsically slow. Concentrating on moving the ball away from the right-hander, they had four of their eight wickets taken by Farbrace or in the slips, where Embury took a blinder

to account for Marsh. Farbrace held four catches against his old county.

Ward's innings of 51, which included seven fours, ended the first ball after lunch when he drove at Cowans and was caught behind. All in all, Kent were struggling when Ellison joined

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RACING

Magic carpet that breaks new ground

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
TOKYO

WHEN Leroy Burrell was put on the spot last week and asked whether the new hi-tech spikes he was promoting were the difference between the 100 metres world record he set in June and the one he eclipsed, it was only half a question. A new hi-tech track, on which the world championships are being staged, is complicating the equation.

The gap between 100 metres world records usually runs into years, but Carl Lewis regained it from Burrell within ten weeks. "Fast legs," Lewis said about his 9.86sec and Burrell's 9.88sec.

But the track and shoe manufacturers are as pleased with themselves as Lewis and Burrell. The surface in the national stadium has been given the sobriquet "the magic carpet". Or in jargon: "A newly-developed chipless urethane surface featuring soft landing and strong kick-back."

This, say its developers, is

not a conventional all-weather track. There are 20 in Japan but none outside. The difference has been admitted by some of the best athletes here, if not Lewis. "It is not as if one person has excelled — everybody has," Roger Black, the European 400 metres champion, said. If there was some exaggeration in what Black said, his point was well made. "It will probably go down as the fastest track in the world," he added.

Tuesday should have enhanced the track's reputation when Michael Johnson ran the 200 metres, but a headwind of 3.4 metres per second — nearly double the legal limit for a tailwind — was probably the difference between his 20.01sec and something quicker than Pietro Mennea's world record of 19.72sec.

If conditions allow, it will be interesting to see what Katrin Krabbe and Merlene Ottey make of their 200 metres and what Carl Lewis can do in the long jump. Can he take a magic carpet ride to Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world record?

The nickname is appropriate because the surface, by comparison with conventional all-weather tracks, is rippled rather than tooth-like. Its chipless top gives an athlete's spikes immediate bite instead of sliding them into position, according to the makers.

Its second feature is the layer of micro-cellular urethane which is said to act as a spring, bringing the athlete more powerfully and efficiently into his next stride. The cells depress on impact and open out on release. The softer shock-absorbent urethane cells in conventional tracks are more spongy and precipitate power-loss, say the manufacturers.

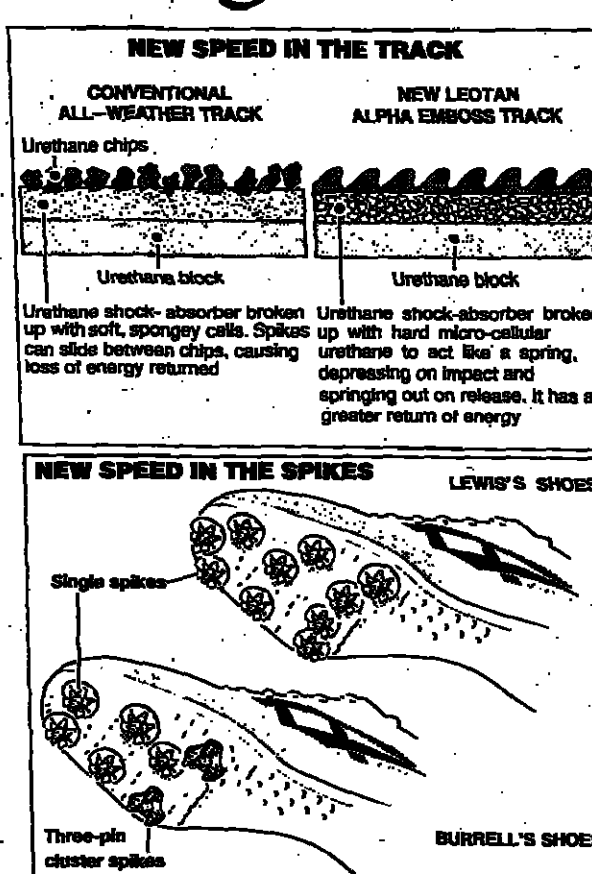
"When an athlete runs on a conventional track his energy is dispersed sideways, but on the Leotan Alpha Emboss track it is dispersed upwards," Hiroyuki Oki, a director of Nippon Taiikushisetsu Ltd, one of two companies which worked on developing the track, said. "The new track is epoch-making, as the all-weather synthetic track was when it replaced the cinder

track in the late 1960s." Without it, would the greatest 100 metres in history have taken place on Sunday? "I think Lewis would have made the world record, but six athletes ran under 10sec and I think only four would," Oki said.

At the same time, Lewis was wearing the lightest spikes ever made — 115gm — according to the maker, Mizuno. At the 1988 Olympic Games, when Lewis won in 9.92sec, his shoes weighed 170gm.

Burrell's run last Sunday came in spikes designed after performance tests with him. Asics, the company which developed them, said that he was losing power using single spikes. So they developed a shoe combining single spikes with three-pin clusters.

"There has definitely been a positive effect in the way I feel on the track," Burrell said. Given the variables of wind-speed and altitude, perhaps now we should wait no longer for alternative records: not times set at altitude but those that are track or shoe assisted.



England rally well against a fiery attack

By JOHN WOODCOCK

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Australia Under-19, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 140 runs ahead of England Under-19

YOUNG Australia again have rather the better of the second of their three four-day matches against Young England yesterday, but not as emphatically as they had on the first day.

England's total of 313 represented, in fact, quite a sterling recovery from 113 for four, and was achieved against some keen, sometimes fiery bowling.

Although it was another interesting day's cricket, with plenty of crisp strokes, more over time was needed before the mandatory 110 overs had been completed. Those who tire, as I do, of watching an endless stream of faster bowlers come charging in, had, on yesterday's evidence, better not settle in Australia.

In two-and-a-quarter hours before lunch Australia bowled 32 overs, the only variety being provided by Godwin, bowling left-arm over the wicket at medium pace, with Gilchrist, the wicketkeeper, standing up. Cook ran as far as David Lawrence does for England, and Kasprovic displayed the same aggression as Craig McDermott, a fellow Queenslander, who himself came to England with one of these young Australian sides. Relief came in the shape of a long spell of off breaks by Castle who came on at two o'clock and bowled until the new ball was taken three hours later.

Being physically stronger than the home side, the Australians can bowl faster and hit the ball harder than England; but they time the ball no better than Smith and Lathwell did yesterday in a partnership which revived England's fortunes. At 67 for three with Crawley just out caught at the wicket playing

forward, for some reason to something well short of a length, England were in a poor way, but Bainbridge, Tuesday's night watchman, had seen Kasprovic off by the time he was fourth out, and by lunch Smith and Lathwell were showing what a lovely pitch it is for driving.

Kasprovic wanted to know why Smith was not given out leg before, before he had scored. It certainly did look very close. As others queue up to leave Leicestershire, Smith is happy to stay with them. They have given him a good run this year; being full of cricket, he has shown himself to be worth it. He gave cover point, standing deep and square to the faster bowlers, a proper hammering.

Lathwell was equally spirited, and then Irani and Welch put on 94 together for the seventh wicket. Lathwell and Welch have played for Somerset and Warwickshire respectively, though only in one-day competitions, and Irani, a big, engaging player, will not let Lancashire down when he does so. When, now, the new ball was taken, Welch was caught at slip and Kasprovic produced two fast yorkers and something else well pitched up to finish the innings off.

Smith, Lathwell, Irani and Welch are among six of the England side to have been to comprehensive schools, and no fewer than ten who had a state education. Those who had to make do without cricket at school, as some did, were picked up either through the English Schools' Cricket Association or a county youth scheme, in which affiliated clubs are closely monitored for young talent. When Essex play on the same ground five or six of them are sometimes from public schools, two or three of those (Pringle, Stephenson, Knight) from nearby Felsted.

Worcestershire follow, page 38
Scoreboards, page 38

Angry Coppell criticises referee's display

Three dismissed as Wimbledon lose to landlords

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE relationship between landlord and tenant is always potentially volatile, but rarely more so than at Selhurst Park on Tuesday night when Crystal Palace and Wimbledon met at their shared abode.

Wimbledon, Palace's first division rivals who moved in at Selhurst during the summer, had two players sent off and one carried off, as Palace, despite having Nigel Martyn, their goalkeeper, dismissed for a professional foul in the 33rd minute, won 3-2.

John Fashanu provided Wimbledon with an early lead before being stretched off with a torn thigh muscle. Then came Martyn's foul on Earle, prompting the transfer of Salako from left wing to goalkeeper. To widespread disbelief, Palace came off at half-time leading after goals from Bright and Gray in the final two minutes of the first half.

By then, Phelan, the Wimbledon left back, had been sent off for hand ball. Late in the second half, Ryan was also dismissed for committing a second bookable offence. Wright scored the third Palace goal before Earle pulled one back in the 87th minute for Wimbledon, setting the scene for a dramatic late save from Salako that preserved three points for Palace.

By way of completing the sideshow, Segers, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, finished the match by charging upfield in an attempt to head a cross past Martyn's understudy.

Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, yesterday expressed displeasure with the way David Elleray, the referee, had

interpreted the rules. "Shades of grey are no longer part of the game," he said. "There are not many opportunities for referee to use their noddles rather than do what the FA tells them to do. They are doing out robot referees, which nobody wants." Certainly not Martyn, who threw his shin pads to the ground in disgust at being shown the red card.

Meanwhile, Ray Harford, the Wimbledon manager, insisted that his players were as well-behaved as any in the first division. "I feel quite aggrieved that we have had three players sent off already this season," he said. "Our conduct last year was very good and I do not think it was any worse against Palace." Goals from Paul Merson and Alan Smith enabled Arsenal to beat Luton Town 2-0 at Highbury, but the champions' first victory of the season was not achieved without cost. The sending off of Anders Limpar, for elbowing Mark Pembroke in the face, will deprive Arsenal of the Swedish international winger for three matches.



McMahon: domestic ban

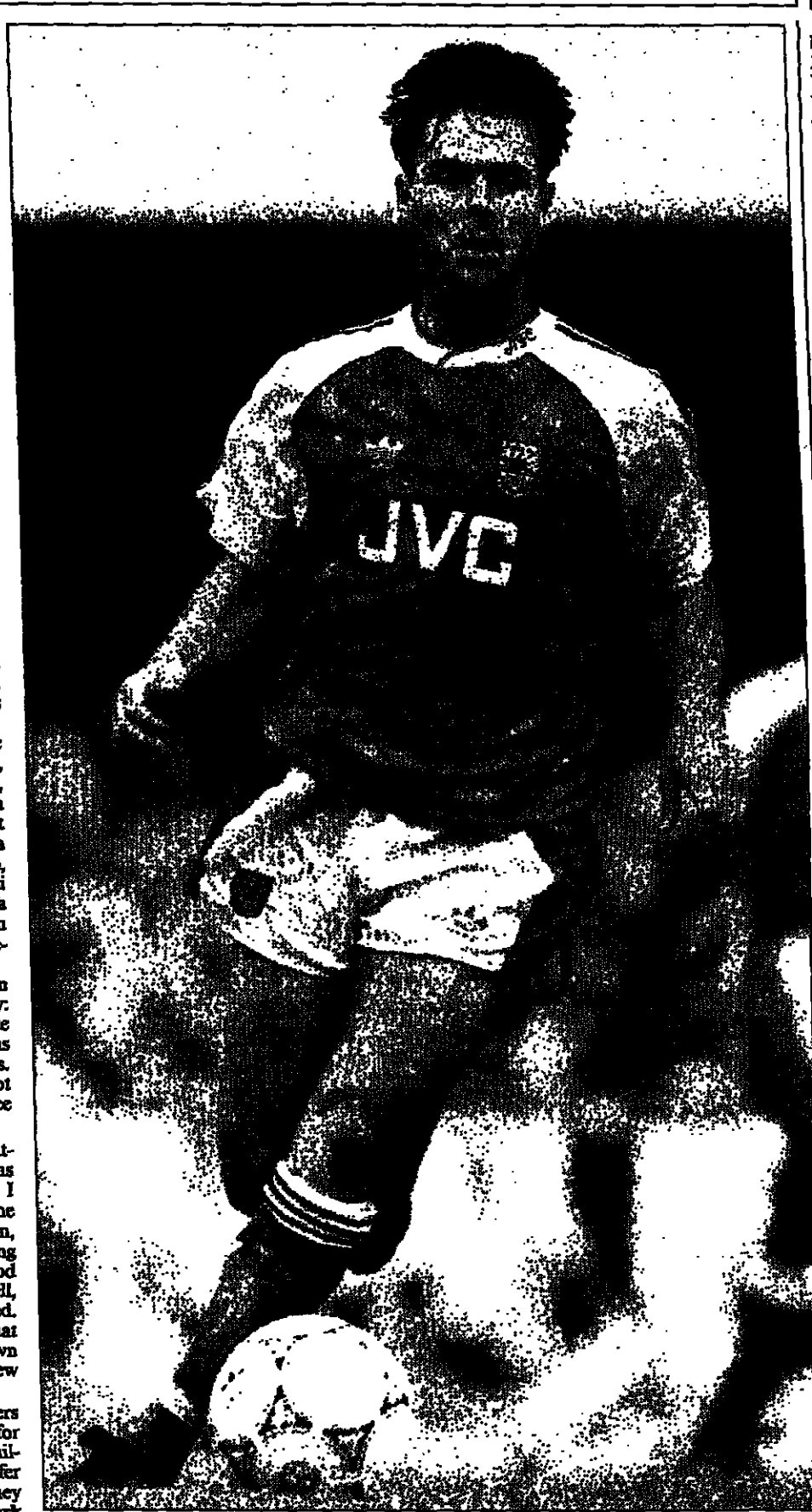
George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said that Limpar "would be disciplined by the club" for his folly. "Anders has learned to live with hard tackling in the first division, but he reacted against Luton," he added. "However, he has got to learn that provocation is part and parcel of the game. The team could have suffered from his action."

However, Limpar, like Steve McMahon, of Liverpool, who was sent off last Saturday, is free to represent Arsenal in European competition next month. Arsenal face Austria Vienna in the European Cup, while Liverpool meet Kuusysi Lahti, of Finland, in the UEFA Cup. Both players will be in the middle of domestic three-match suspensions.

A Football Association spokesman said yesterday: "There is an entirely separate set of disciplinary regulations governing UEFA competitions. Domestic suspensions do not count in Europe, and vice versa."

Reflecting on domestic matters, Graham said: "It was vital to beat Luton because I consider it essential, in the first two months of the season, to be up here with the leading teams establishing a good base. We had not started well, and we had been criticised. But we have to accept that because we have set our own standards in the last few years."

At Anfield, Dean Saunders scored his first goal for Liverpool after his £2.9 million close-season transfer from Derby County as they narrowly beat Queen's Park Rangers 1-0.



Facing punishment: Limpar will be disciplined by Arsenal after being sent off

First division clubs take court action

AFTER a summer spent deploring the need for court action, the first division clubs are themselves going to court on Friday in a bid to pre-empt the Football League Extraordinary General Meeting on September 10 (Peter Ball writes).

They are applying to the chancery division to require the League's joint receivers, Arthur Sandford and Ian Watt, to apply for sanction for the League on the basis of the Football Association's requirement. The FA has refused to sanction the League as an authorised competition this season while regulation eleven remains in the League rule book.

Sandford, the League's chief executive, and Watt, an accountant from Peate, Marwick and McLintock, were appointed as receivers by the court last week when the league management committee ceased to function after the first division representatives walked out, rendering it inoperative. The contentious regulation eleven, which requires clubs leaving the league to give three years' notice of intent, is the major obstacle to the formation of the FA's breakaway Premier League. It was over-ruled when the high court found in favour of the FA last month, but that verdict is the subject of an appeal by the League.

In the meantime, the League has called its EGM, which will effectively decide whether the appeal goes ahead or the rest of the League acquiesces neatly in the breakaway.

The fact that the situation would be resolved anyway in less than two weeks suggests that it is another attempt to forestall a democratic decision by the majority of clubs on whether to appeal.

It is nonetheless a surprising move by the Premier League clubs, given their voluble resistance throughout the summer to the idea of the League taking the FA to court.

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Ardiles not about to panic yet

By PETER BALL

INQUESTS are not usually carried out three games into the season. Newcastle United, though, are always a special case, and the sight of the pre-season promotion favourites still searching for their first win is already causing heart-searching on Tyneside.

There was little encouragement for them in Tuesday's comprehensive 3-0 defeat at Middlesbrough. Their young side could not cope as they were torn apart by the speed and power of the home side's attacks.

One of their main tormentors was their former forward, John Hendrie, and afterwards he had little comfort to offer his old club. His grins when he was asked if he could see them as promotion candidates was expressive, but he chose his words carefully.

"You would have to say they have a lot of work to do if they are going to be in the frame," he said, "although if you had seen us in our

previous game you'd have said the same about us."

Middlesbrough's more powerful, more experienced team certainly looked much more like the finished product on Tuesday, but Lennie Lawrence, their manager, insisted that underestimating Newcastle would be a mistake.

"When they get their passing game going, I could see

them winning five or six on the trot," Lawrence said. "There is a lot of quality in the side, and there is no reason why they can't reverse their fortunes. They are just not quite in tune at the moment, and the way they play they have to be on song."

Oswaldo Ardiles, the Newcastle manager, obviously agrees. He rejects the suggestions of impatient local scribes that they should be more cautious away from home.

"It would be totally alien to our nature to go away to defend," Ardiles said. "To play good football means going forward, but it also means defending properly, and defensively as a team, we have to be prepared to fight more."

Acquiring one or two experienced, high-quality defenders would help, if dreams of promotion are to be realised but, with money at a premium, that is not easy. At the moment, there is a huge burden of expectation on a young team, as Hendrie pointed out.

"It was easy for them last season, because Newcastle couldn't go anywhere when they came into the side, so there was no pressure, and all the crowd were willing them to do well," he said. "But it's different now. They are expected to do well this time."

"The manager came out and said before the season that he thinks they are good enough to get promotion, so that puts the pressure on, and the Newcastle crowd are very demanding. It's hard for kids to be under that sort of pressure."

For the moment the attempt to take Walker on loan from Celtic has been shelved, so there is no relief to be found in that quarter, but Ardiles confirmed that they are still looking for good players.

For the moment, though, he said that the start had not shaken his confidence. "It is going to be a very long season," he said. "A win will do wonders for our confidence, so the sooner it comes the better, but our start has not shaken our belief."



Ardiles: wants more fight

Surrey's title chase springs a leak

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

THE undersoil irrigation system at the Oval, which produced a velvet outfield for the fifth Test against the West Indies earlier this month, sprang a leak yesterday, with embarrassing results.

Surrey were going along nicely in mid-afternoon against Sussex and had reached 154 for two when a bulge suddenly appeared on the bowler's run-up at the pavilion end, some four yards short of the stumps.

Play was suspended, an early tea taken and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) consulted at Lord's. Meanwhile the water was turned off and a mechanised sponge machine known as The Whale headed for the offend-

ing area. It had barely started mopping up operations when it ran out of petrol.

Eventually the damaged area was dried out, returfed, treated with sand and sawdust and play resumed. But the verdict from the TCCB was that the 17 overs lost could not be made up.

Surrey, fifth in the championship and still with a statistical chance of the title, were later held up again by a brief stoppage for bad light. But they were not content to tread water.

Graham Thorpe completed his second century in successive innings and was 153 not out at the close when Surrey's score was a healthy 311 for three.

Murray unsettled by domestic pressures

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, TOKYO

YVONNE Murray's defeat at 3,000 metres in the world championships here on Monday may in part have been due to pressures affecting her private life. Tommy Boyle, her coach, said yesterday that he was surprised she had performed as well as she had this past year considering the emotional problems she had suffered.

According to Boyle, Murray has now terminated her four-year close relationship with Nigel Whitefield, a media relations officer in the sport. "Yvonne has been very unsettled for some time now," Boyle said. "It dates back to before the European championships in Split [last summer]. How she won then I will never know. I think now she can be even better, and stronger than before with the pressures from her private life out of the way."

Murray, aged 26, a bronze medal winner in the 1988 Olympic Games, broke down in tears after failing to take her expected win in the European Cup in June and again after her tenth-place on Monday, when she expected a medal. □ Bonn — A number of German women competitors at the world championships will have been given male

hormones when they were younger, a leading German doctor claims. Professor Werner Franke said on nationwide television that he had a list of athletes from the former East Germany who had been given the hormones.

"Secret experiments were carried out on young girls who were injected with male hormones and who are now top class athletes," Franke said.

He declined to mention names, but said that Katrin Krabbe, who won the 100 metres, was not among them. □ Johannesburg will stage a two-day athletics meeting on October 11 and 12 at which athletes from all African nations will be invited to compete.

Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said yesterday that the Johannesburg meeting would be one of two staged in Africa after the African Games in Cairo. The first will be on October 5 in Dakar.

Simple-minded Black, page 36
Congested timetable, page 36
Baltic readmission, page 36
